WORLD / A22

World Bank president Wolfowitz begs to keep job, promises to change

WORLD / A21

Jerry Falwell who turned Christian conservatives into political force dies; 73

NEWS / A2

Mark Jimenez abducted wife, says her lawyer

ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Dollywood: Fan wants to know if Yilmaz is Ruffa's 2nd husband

By conceding early, Garci up to no good–Ping, Nene

IMBES NA MABAWASAN, NA-DAGDAGAN PA ANG DUDA!

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

TWO OPPOSITION SENATORS believe there is more than meets the eye in former Election Commissioner Virgilio "Garci" Garcillano's decision to

BY CONCEDING/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, May 17, 2007 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 158 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

'No, this is not my son'; Jonas Burgos still missing

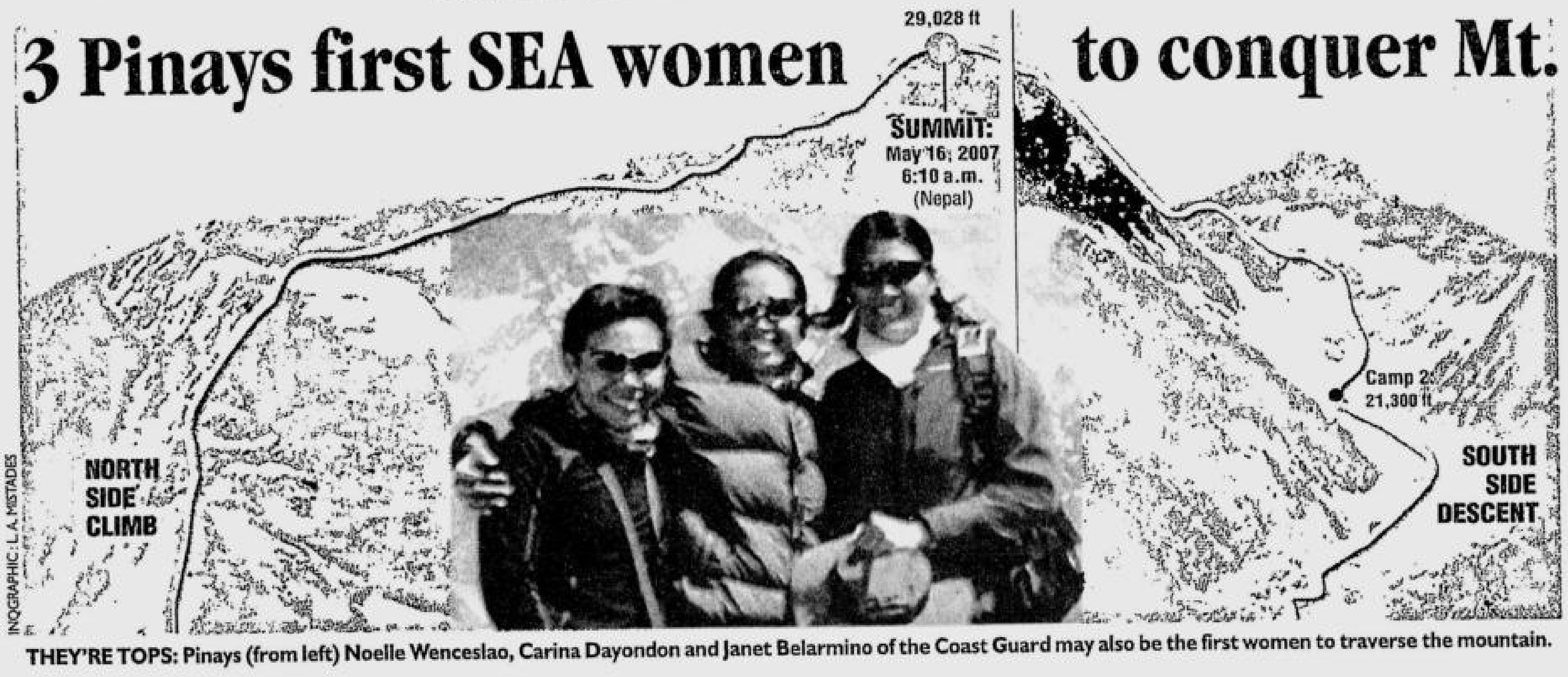
By Fe Zamora

ABUCAY, BATAAN—EDITA BURGOS TOOK A good look at the fingernails, the hairline and the bloodied face of the picture of a man found dead on a road on April 29, a day after her son, Jonas, was abducted by still unidentified men from a mall in Quezon City.

She turned to Dr. Irma Mendoza, the municipal

NO, THIS/ A6

3 Pinays first SEA women to conquer Mt. Everest


29,028 ft
SUMMIT: May 16, 2007 6:10 a.m. (Nepal)
NORTH SIDE CLIMB
Camp 2: 21,300 ft
SOUTH SIDE DESCENT
INQGRAPHIC: L.A. MISTADES

THEY'RE TOPS: Pinays (from left) Noelle Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon and Janet Belarmino of the Coast Guard may also be the first women to traverse the mountain.

By Alcuin Papa

FILIPINO-STYLE WOMAN POWER HAS helped three female members of a Philippine team reach the top of the world.

Enduring health problems, frigid weather, thin air, a most inhospitable terrain and the dissolution of their original expedition team, Noelle Wenceslao, Karina Dayondon and Janet Belarmino have achieved the ultimate triumph of a mountaineer—the summit of Mt. Everest.

In a satellite phone call to the INQUIRER, expedition leader Art Valdez confirmed that all three women reached the summit of the world's highest mountain from the North Side yesterday morning.

From all indications, they are the first

3 PINAYS/ A9

TU 12-0 in Maguindanao

Trillanes hangs on to Magic 12

By Cathy Yamsuan and Nikko Dizon

IT WAS 8-2-2 IN FAVOR OF THE Genuine Opposition (GO) as of 9:11 last night in the quick count by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.

GO increased its lead over the administration's Team Unity (TU) in the official count of the overseas absentee votes.

It was 8-3-1 for GO, according to partial results of the canvassing presided over by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) en banc sitting as the National Board of Canvassers. *(See table.)*

After slipping out of the Magic 12 in early tabulation yesterday, Antonio Trillanes moved up to 11th place based on Namfrel's tally as of 9:11 last night.

TRILLANES/ A8

Cayetano woes pile up but no relief from SC

By Leila B. Salaverria and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THERE'S STILL NO RELIEF EVEN from the Supreme Court for Alan Peter Cayetano, who is seeking the permanent disqualification of his namesake in the senatorial race.

Compounding his woes is the memorandum issued by Education Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Franklin Sunga two days before the May 14 elections ordering public school teachers not to count votes for the Genuine Opposition senatorial candidate in his favor.

The memo was issued on May

CAYETANO/ A6

Singson is topnotcher; Pichay is No. 2

Nash B. Maulana and Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—DEFYING dominant voting patterns in many parts of the country, administration loyalists are delivering the vaunted 12-0 sweep in Maguindanao for Team Unity (TU) candidates—with Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson as the topnotcher, based on early returns.

Administration strategists say such a vote shows the power of the political machine expressed through bloc voting.

To local officials, it is the power of the shura at play—a system of consultations where people are encouraged to reach a consensus on matters of public concern, elections among them.

The 12-0 vote for the TU ticket, based on initial returns from Maguindanao's 27 towns (total voting population: 336,000), followed warnings from some watchdog groups about an alleged administration plan to cheat in the elections under an operation code-named "Oplan Mercury Rising."

The Maguindanao vote also coincided with warnings from opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel about an alleged administration plot to rig the votes in the country's southern region.

"The cheating machinery of the administration is now at work in Mindanao," Pimentel said yesterday.

Maguindanao was one of the provinces mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tape scandal involving wiretapped conversations allegedly between President Macapagal-Ar-

TU 12-0/ A8

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE Lyka, 9, the youngest of 9 children of poll watcher Leticia Ramos and her siblings cry their hearts out at her wake in the family home in Taysan, Batangas. Their mother was burned to death when gunmen in bonnets torched the school where she worked as poll watcher.

THE GOOD FIGHTS

Priest's rival claims victory

By the Inquirer Bureaus

PRIEST-TURNED-GUBERNATORIAL HOPEFUL Ed Panlilio yesterday called on his supporters to mount prayer vigils near the election canvassing venues against a "seeming grand scheme to thwart the outcome of the elections in Pampanga."

"Democracy is in peril in Pampanga," he told reporters.

His appeal was prompted by Board Member Lilia Pineda's early claim to victory, which also triggered criticisms from a third candidate, reelectionist Gov. Mark Lapid.

"The right authority to do that is the provincial board of canvassers. We have to follow proper procedures," Panlilio said.

He said delays, power interruptions, vote-buying, ballot-snatching, the stoppage of canvassing in several towns, intentional misreading of results and *dagdag-bawas* (vote-shaving and -padding) had happened right in the home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo and right in her home district where her son, Juan Miguel, is the representative.

As of 4:11 p.m. yesterday, tabulations by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) in 2,001 precincts showed Panlilio getting 127,843 votes; Pineda, 126,609, and Lapid, 111,519.

PRIEST'S/ A9

ELEKSYON 2007

COMELEC TALLY

Overseas Absentee Voters, COCs from 15 countries and 1 US territory; As of 5:30 p.m. May 16, 2007

1	PANGILINAN, Francis	Ind	3658
2	LEGARDA, Loren	GO	3461
3	AQUINO, Benigno	GO	3095
4	RECTO, Ralph	TU	2944
5	VILLAR, Manuel	GO	2926
6	ESCUDERO, Francis	GO	2825
7	ARROYO, Joker	TU	2455
8	LACSON, Panfilo	GO	2411
9	CAYETANO, Alan	GO	2363
10	ANGARA, Edgardo	TU	2309
11	PIMENTEL, Aquilino	GO	2201
12	ROCO, Sonia	GO	1956
13	DEFENSOR, Michael	TU	1886
14	ZUBIRI, Miguel	TU	1774
15	SOTTO, Vicente	TU	1720
16	HONASAN, Gregorio	Ind	1674
17	OSMEÑA, John	GO	1404
18	MAGSAYSAY, Vicente	KBL	1388
19	TRILLANES, Antonio	GO	1356
20	COSETENG, Nikki	GO	1310

NAMFREL TALLY

29,855 out of 224,748 precincts
As of 9:11 p.m. May 16, 2007

1	ESCUDERO, Francis	GO	1,588,156
2	LEGARDA, Loren	GO	1,588,040
3	LACSON, Panfilo	GO	1,497,445
4	VILLAR, Manuel	GO	1,323,278
5	PANGILINAN, Francis	Ind	1,322,126
6	AQUINO, Benigno	GO	1,291,880
7	ANGARA, Edgardo	TU	1,128,844
8	ARROYO, Joker	TU	1,059,737
9	CAYETANO, Alan	GO	1,040,925
10	HONASAN, Gregorio	Ind	1,040,022
11	TRILLANES, Antonio	GO	1,011,804
12	PIMENTEL, Aquilino	GO	1,004,199
13	ZUBIRI, Miguel	TU	958,869
14	RECTO, Ralph	TU	942,318
15	PICHAY, Prospero	TU	896,014
16	DEFENSOR, Michael	TU	880,401
17	ROCO, Sonia	GO	785,706
18	MONTANO, Cesar	TU	713,216
19	OSMEÑA, John	GO	665,295
20	SOTTO, Vicente	TU	647,551

Foreign observers: We felt safer in Afghanistan

By Cynthia D. Balana

DESPITE THE "FIESTA" ATMOSPHERE during the May 14 elections, foreign observers who monitored the voting in Mindanao said yesterday they worried constantly about possible violence and felt safer in Afghanistan.

They also reported incidents of intimidation, blatant vote-buying, candidates' poll watchers dictating names to voters as they filled out their ballots and lack of voter respect for election institutions in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

In a statement, the team of 21 foreign observers from the Asian Network for Free Elections (Anfrel) said that while the government claimed the balloting was generally peaceful, it was not so in the ARMM.

It said the ARMM polling was "manipulated by outsiders" and that the culture of impunity for election and political crime may fuel calls for an alternative government that could provide justice for the people.

"The situation is not so comfortable especially if you have the military everywhere and also weapons everywhere," said Somsri Hananontasuk, Anfrel director from Thailand.

Somsri, who said she saw confrontations between rival candidates and two bomb blasts, had also observed polls in

FOREIGN/ A6

Second
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FOUR DIGIT 4 2 0 9
SUERTES Mid-Day 8 8 1 | Evening 1 1 0
(All in exact order)
MEGALOTTO 6/45
15 22 32 34 42 43
P60,482,919.60

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains.
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/05/17/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Mark Jimenez wife abducted

By Kristine L. Alave

CAROL JIMENEZ, THE wife of former Manila congressman Mark Jimenez, was abducted by eight men yesterday morning in Makati City and is reportedly being held in a drug rehabilitation center owned by her husband's relative, her lawyer Lorna Patajo-Kapunan said yesterday.

Carol was with her sister Rose Flaminiano when she was forcibly taken by unidentified men and pushed inside a vehicle at the basement of Tuscany condominium at about 10 a.m.

In a press briefing yesterday, Patajo-Kapunan said she was supposed to meet Carol in the afternoon for their first court hearing at the Taguig Regional Trial Court, where she filed last month charges of domestic abuse and got a temporary restriction order against her husband of 30 years.

Carol had told the court that her husband, who came to prominence as a "financial adviser" of deposed President Joseph Estrada but was later sent back to the United States to serve a sentence for illegal campaign contributions, subjected her to various physical, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse over the last three decades.

In her sworn statement, she said Jimenez broke her nose when he threw a glass ashtray at her face and even performed an "exorcism" on her last year. He also threatened to kill her and their 13-year-old son.

MARK JIMENEZ

CAROL JIMENEZ

Drug rehab center

Patajo-Kapunan expressed fears for the safety of her missing client.

She said they received reports that Carol was taken to Silver Crest Rehabilitation Center in Parañaque City. One of the facility's owners is Diana Crespo, Jimenez's niece, she said.

"They will probably inject her with drugs and hold her against her will...There's no doubt MJ is behind this," Patajo-Kapunan charged.

The INQUIRER called Silvercrest but the guard who answered the phone said no one was available for interview as all officials were all on vacation. The guard refused to confirm if Carol was taken to the facility, citing the facility's "confidentiality" provisions.

Patajo-Kapunan appealed to Silvercrest officials to release Carol.

"Please let her go. Carol is not a drug addict," Patajo-Kapunan said. She said the medications that Carol takes are for anxiety and stress.

Habeas corpus petition

If Carol failed to appear in the next 24 hours, Patajo-Kapunan said she would ask the court to summon Jimenez and order him to release his wife or she would file a habeas corpus petition before the Supreme Court.

Mark Jimenez, however, yesterday denied having "kidnapped" his wife.

Jimenez called up the INQUIRER before a scheduled press conference at his house where he said he would present a certification from an accredited doctor of the Dangerous Drugs Board showing that his wife was indeed drug dependent, as well as certifications from at least eight psychiatrists and psychologists who checked on his wife to further prove his point.

Asked why he was bringing this out, Jimenez said: "Because I want to save her and shield her from high-ranking government officials and business interests who are using her to malign me and the people who support me."

He said his wife had been undergoing rehabilitation for several years before she left the house and went to his detractors who advised her to sue him.

Restraining order

In a three-page decision issued on April 13, Taguig family court Executive Judge Amelia Manalastas prohibited the ex-representative from coming within 200 meters of his wife, their son, and her immediate relatives.

Manalastas also banned Jimenez from "harassing, annoying, telephoning, contacting, or communicating," with Caroline and her family.

Jimenez should also provide financial support to Carol and undergo professional counseling for anger control, management of alcohol and substance abuse, and other interventions "to stop violence," the judge ordered.

Patajo-Kapunan said Jimenez had violated the order. He refused to give support to Carol, vacate their house in Essensa Condominium, and hurt her again when she tried to retrieve some of her things in their house.

Patajo-Kapunan said she had filed a motion with the court to cite Jimenez for contempt. *With Cynthia D. Balana*

Justice Ong goes to SC

By Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS filled up a Supreme Court vacancy with a judge who is closely associated with jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday told reporters the appointment papers of Sandiganbayan Justice Gregory Ong were transmitted earlier that day to Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

Ong takes up the lone vacancy in the 15-member high bench brought about by the retirement of Associate Justice Romeo Callejo on April 28.

Ermita said the President relied on the wisdom of the Judicial and Bar Council in her choice of Ong. The JBC, which recommends appointees to vacancies in the judiciary, provided Malacañang with a shortlist. The body is chaired by the Chief Justice.

Ong was one of three Sandiganbayan justices—the others are Raul Victorino and Godofredo Legaspi—who asked to be dropped from the list of magistrates being considered for the special court that would hear the plunder case against Estrada.

In a manifestation before the Supreme Court, Ong said he should not sit in what would become known as the Special Division because of his "close association" with the disgraced leader.

Estrada appointed Ong to the antigraft court in October 1998. He served as a junior member of the 1st Division until January 2002 when he became its acting chair.

In October 2002 he became chair of the Sandiganbayan's 4th Division.

Ong, who is turning 54 on May 25, teaches law at the San Beda College, where he also took his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1979. He obtained a master's degree at the Manuel L. Quezon University in 1990.

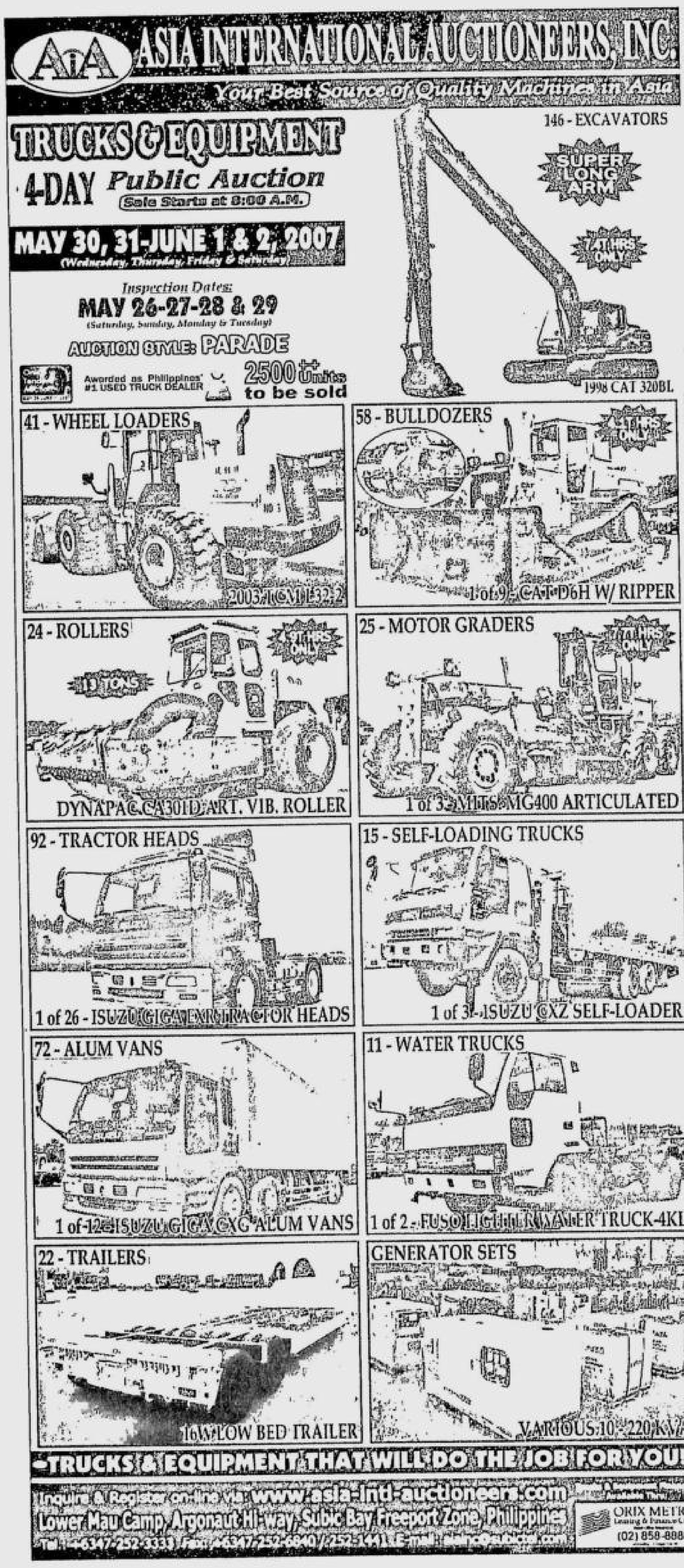
Promotion

Ong began his government career in 1986 as an assistant city prosecutor in Manila, a position he held until December 1993.

Before his promotion to the Sandiganbayan, Ong presided over the Pasig Regional Trial Court, Branch 262, from January 1994 to October 1998. His sala was considered a special criminal court assigned to hear heinous offenses.

In a statement yesterday, Ong thanked the President "for reposing her confidence in me."

"I would like to assure her and the entire nation that I will perform my duties as a high court magistrate with utmost dedication and with only my conscience and the good of the nation as my guide," he said.



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Elections send Inquirer.net traffic soaring

By JV Rufino
INQUIRER.net

ELECTION FEVER HAS SENT TRAFFIC ON Inquirer.net, the news website of the INQUIRER group of publications, soaring.

Traffic during Election Day itself, May 14, was relatively low, at a little over a million page views.

But traffic on May 15, the day after the elections, saw traffic doubling to 2.1 million page views, based on the site's traffic monitoring system.

That level of traffic is the highest since July 8, 2005, the day several members of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet quit their posts and called on her to resign in the wake of the "Hello Garci" electoral fraud scandal (http://archive.inquirer.net/view.php?db=0&story_id=42757).

On that day in 2005, 1.8 million page views were registered.

A pageview is a request for a web page from the site made by a user's web browser.

Most of the traffic was registered on Inquirer.net's running account (http://eleksyon2007m.inquirer.net/running/), a minute-by-minute "liveblogging" of election-related developments.

The site's tally page (http://eleksyon2007a.inquirer.net/tally.htm)also received considerable traffic as Inquirer.net personnel kept readers abreast of tallies from both the media tally of the AMA computer school, the count of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and the official tally of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Also receiving attention was the site's Google-powered Election Map (http://www.inquirer.net/map_api/map_api.php), which compared registered voters in 2007 to that in 2004 by province and town.

Readers joined in the election coverage through posts and comments on the Eleksyon 2007 blog (http://www.inquirerbloggers.net/eleksyon2007).

Rounding out the special Eleksyon 2007 site's offerings are a 4,000-article Election News section (http://eleksyon2007n.inquirer.net/archive/) dating back to November 2006 as well as photo (http://eleksyon2007f.inquirer.net/photos.php) and video (http://eleksyon2007f.inquirer.net/video.php) sections.

Clean up, bets told

WITH THE ELECTORAL FRENZY OVER, ENVIronment Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday appealed to candidates to help environment personnel scrape their posters off walls and tear down their banners from trees across the country.

Reyes warned that unless cleaned up soon, the campaign materials that still clutter thoroughfares, streets and plazas could clog sewers, foul up the air, and contaminate water sources.

Posters and leaflets could end up in rivers, esteros and swamps, and cause flash floods when the rainy season sets in, while tarpaulins could cause air pollution if these were merely burned, he said.

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Comelec tells TV networks to stop quick count

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Jerome Aning

COMELEC CHAIR BENJAMIN Abalos Sr. yesterday told two top television networks to stop airing their own election quick counts using consolidated results from unspecified sources.

He warned networks GMA 7 and ABS-CBN 2 that they would be cited for contempt and may face sanctions if they did not follow his order.

"Both [TV] stations are not accredited to do a quick count. It's only Namfrel (National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections)," Abalos said yesterday.

Abalos said that the Commission on Elections' education and information department has already sent a letter to the two media networks ordering them to stop airing unofficial and consolidated election results, which, he noted, was tantamount to violating election rules.

Sanctions would be imposed on these media organizations should they disregard the Comelec's notice. But Abalos, however, did not elaborate on these penalties.

"Let's not talk of sanctions yet. Let us see if there will be violations," he said.

Based on prior arrangements between the two TV networks, the Comelec allowed them to report quick counts and exit polls but they were not granted permission to consolidate results without citing sources, he said.

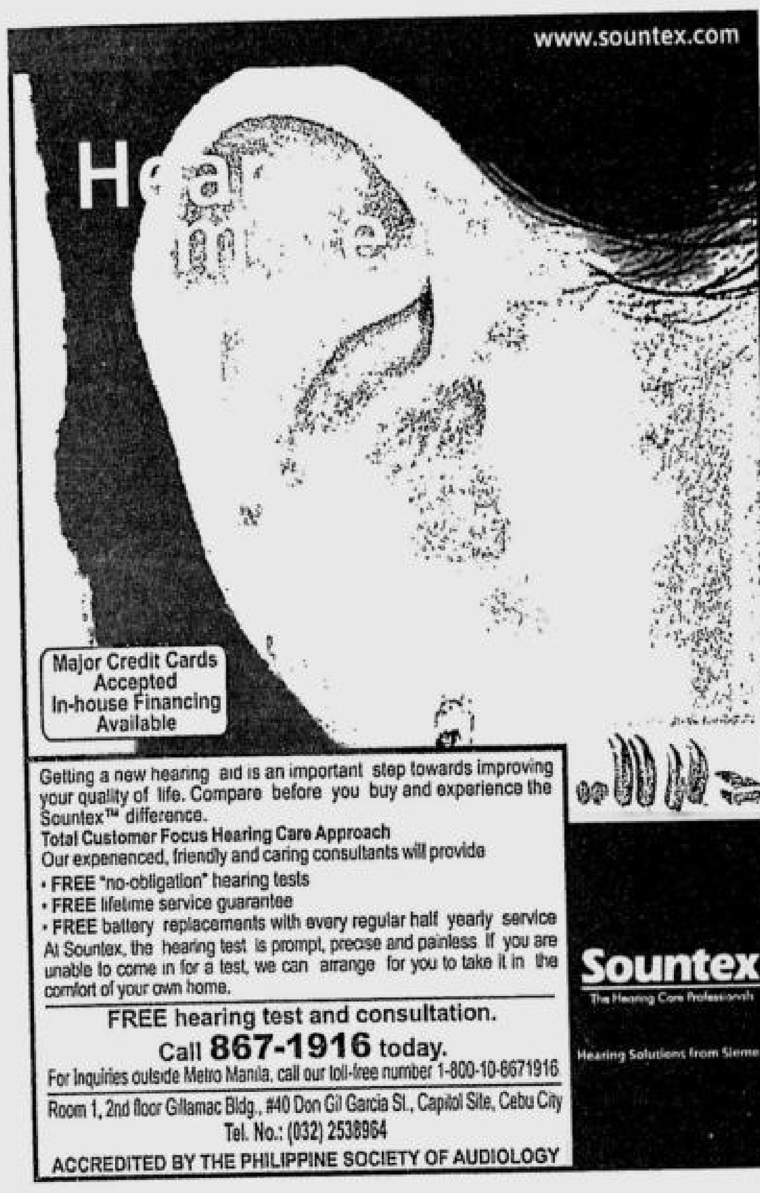
He clarified that AMA Education System, which is conducting a quick count, was only "a tool" but not a valid source.

He added: "They (media outfits) are not supposed to report an unofficial tally especially if they do not show their source. In the same way, reporting false and alarming news is a ground for us to call them and have them cited for contempt."

Alioden Dalaig, head of the Comelec law department, defended the poll body's decision to regulate media tallies.

He said Comelec commissioners would come out with a resolution setting new and clearer guidelines for media tallies.

"If it's only a simple tally with no other information where the votes counted came from, then there's a possibility that it may be construed as trending," Dalaig said in an interview. *With a report from Kristine Mangunay*



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GMA tightens grip on House

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday said her allies have increased their majority in the House of Representatives and in local elective posts and predicted political stability after the midterm elections last Monday.

"I believe we will have an even bigger majority in the House and an almost complete sweep of the local chief executives," Ms Arroyo said in an interview yesterday with the Wall Street Journal Asia newspaper.

Economic reforms

Malacañang released portions of the President's interview yesterday.

Ms Arroyo avoided mentioning the race for the Senate, saying the official count was just beginning.

"The elections were good, peaceful, free and fair. There's going to be political stability," Ms Arroyo said.

"We can continue on our path of economic reforms towards our pro-growth, pro-poor and promodernization agenda," she said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the administration was not yet ready to concede the Senate to the opposition.

Early trends of the count show six opposition, two independents and only four administration candidates in the top 12 for the Senate.

The ruling coalition claimed at least 22 governors and 67 representatives as having won in Monday's elections.

A partial list provided by the Lakas-CMD also showed that Malacañang allies were leading in majority of the gubernatorial and congressional races in Luzon.

Leading the pack in the congressional races were the President's sons, Dato and Mikey Arroyo in Camarines Sur and Pampanga, respectively, and Speaker Jose de Venecia in Pangasinan.

The administration winners in the congressional race include the daughter of Ermita, Elenita Milagros-Buhain in Batangas; Jesi Lapus, a brother of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, in Tarlac; and Roberto Puno, a brother of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, in Antipolo City.

Ermita said the outcome of the congressional race ruled out the success of any fresh bid to impeach the President in the incoming 14th Congress.

That's life

"Impeachment is a numbers game. The fact [is] they are really very few. It follows that it's a useless exercise for the opposition to try. These are the practicalities of life, especially in politics," Ermita said in his weekly press briefing.

The President's statements did not mean that she was more interested in securing administration dominance in the House than getting a comfortable majority in the Senate, he said.

"I think the senators are all patriotic and responsible. They are not there for the sake of opposing whatever the measures the administration might have," Ermita said.

But he said the President would certainly extend a hand of reconciliation to the opposition.

"The President is the President of the republic and therefore her program always hinges on how she is able to get the cooperation of everybody in the legislative, executive and judicial [branches]. Therefore the President, I'm sure, will exert all efforts to be able to get the cooperation of everyone especially in both houses of Congress," Ermita said.

If the opposition gains the majority in the Senate, Ermita said, "then definitely the President will have to reach out to them and appeal to their sense of justice and patriotism to cooperate with the executive branch to come up with legislation that will improve the conditions of our people."

He did not see any difficulty in this as the President did not openly side with anybody.

Still the president

"Now that the elections are over, when the smoke of the battle dies down, President Arroyo is still the president of the republic so she has not alienated anybody because she didn't really go all-out for one side but she maintains her role as the President," Ermita said.

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June 05, Tuesday - THE MEXICAN TABLE. Let Chef Gino Gonzalez captivate you with his Mexican dishes that is perfect for entertaining and it might even be your next food business. Recipes include Burrito, Cheese and Pepper Flautas, Fresh Salsa, Mango Salsa, Roasted Tomato Salsa, Carnitas, Prawns and Almond Sauce and Garbanzo and a bonus recipe of Sangria The fee for this class is P1,800.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

June 12, Tuesday - PASTA IN A FLASH. Let Chef Gino teach you 8 quick, easy and delightful pasta recipes in one short period Recipes include Pasta Fritata, Linguine in Vongole Sauce, Chorizo, Mushroom and Roasted Red Bell Pepper Sauce, Chicken and Shrimp Lemon Crème Sauce, Pasta Bianca alla Carbonara, Pasta Salad with Honey Dill Dressing and Gino's Puttanesca for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11 00 - 3.00 p.m

June 13, Wednesday - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 5. French Onion Soup, Frito Misto, Salmon Fillet en Papilotte, Breaded Veal Cutlet and No Sweat Tiramisu are the recipes that Chef Gino will teach us. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,500.00 from 11.00 - 300 p.m

BAKING CLASSES

May 30, Wednesday - CHEESECAKES: WITH A DIFFERENCE. Chef & Food Columnist Adoree Chong-Uy will present new ways to prepare cheesecakes Recipes include Ube Mousse Cheesecake, Langka Cheesecake, Mango Cheesecake, Dalandan Curd Cheesecake, Pandan Cheesecake and Green Tea Cheesecake for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10 00 - 4.00 p m

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Gov't owns UCPB shares, court rules

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS RULED with finality that the government owns the shares held by businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. in the United Coconut Planters Bank, saying the sequestered shares were illegally acquired using coconut levy funds.

In a ruling last May 11, the antigraft court's First Division also dismissed a motion by Cojuangco and the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Inc. (Cocofed) for a "full-blown trial" over the ownership of UCPB, dashing their hopes of recovering their shares in the bank.

The Sandiganbayan said its July 11, 2003 ruling, forfeiting Cojuangco's shares in UCPB and awarding them to the government, was final.

'Public in character'

"The court finds that indeed there are no more triable issues that have to be addressed that would necessitate the presentation of evidence by the parties respecting their allegations and defenses," read the court's decision penned by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta.

The decision comes six years after the Supreme Court declared that the coco levy funds were "public in character." The levy was imposed on coconut farmers as a forced tax from 1973, a year after martial law was declared, until 1982.

In 2003, the Sandiganbayan ruled that Cojuangco had illegally acquired UCPB using coco levy funds.

The ruling also affirmed its earlier pronouncements that Presidential Decree No. 755 issued by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos authorizing the Philippine Coconut Authority to buy a bank using coco levy funds for the benefit of the coconut farmers was illegal.

'Futile effort'

The PCA was created by Presidential Decree 232 on June 30, 1973 to develop the coconut industry. Its governing board was chaired by then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile; its board members were Cojuangco and the late Maria Clara Lobregat.

Through PD 755, the Philippine Coconut Federation and Cojuangco, the fund administrator, used the coconut levy funds or Coconut Consumer Stabilization Fund to acquire 72.2 percent of UCPB, which was then known as the First United Bank, in 1975.

In 1986, the Presidential Commission on Good Government sequestered the shares.

In its latest ruling, the court noted that a trial as asked by Cojuangco would "necessarily fail" and would be a "futile effort" since the Cocofed's defense relied heavily on PD 755, which has already been declared as "constitutionally infirmed."

"It appears that all pertinent issues have already been addressed by the Court and trial could be dispensed with. There is no more point in proceeding with trial ... " the ruling stated.

However, the court gave Cojuangco the green light to appeal before the Supreme Court its ruling in 2004 affirming government ownership over the 27 percent bloc of San Miguel Corp. shares, which is being held and administered by the UCPB.

The antigraft court's First Division deemed it as a "separate appealable" judgment.

The court had declared in 2004 that the 27 percent shares of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) in SMC—which is part of the 47 percent sequestered SMC shares—was government-owned and must be used for the benefit of coconut farmers.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 17, 2007
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 18:1-8
Gospel: John 16:16-20

Jesus said to his disciples, "A little while and you will see me no more; and then a little while, and you will see me."

Some of the disciples wondered, "What does he mean by: 'A little while and you will not see me, and then a little while and you will see me?' And why did he say: 'I go to the Father?'" And they said to one another, "What does he mean by 'a little while?' We don't understand."

Jesus knew that they wanted to question him; so he said to them, "You are puzzled because I told you that in a little while you will see me no more, and then a little while later you will see me.

"Truly, I say to you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy."

Commentary

Paul goes to Corinth and meets Priscilla and Aquila, who are tentmakers, and they live together and work together. Timothy and Silas come, and Paul preaches intently to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah (this is the apostle to the Gentiles) and his anger is vented on them. He eventually withdraws to a house near the synagogue and then Titus Justus and his family are baptized. And many Corinthians believe. Again we see the very humanness of the community as it lives/grows, dealing with outside decrees, the Roman government, the Jewish community and individuals' shortcomings, and yet the Church grows.

Jesus keeps trying to tell all of us that he will leave for a short time and then return. We will grieve and mourn but it will be turned into joy. Jesus will return with the gift of the Spirit and will return one day when the world is to be given back to God who has entrusted us with it—to make it holy. There will be mourning, but there will be joy.

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Corrections

IN THE MAY 6 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Japan waging, winning new war in RP"—mistakenly implied that Japan's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is an agency or organization. ODA refers to grants or loans extended by developed countries to developing countries.

* * *

IN RECENT ISSUES, several stories misstated the name of an election watchdog with the acronym Namfrel. The acronym stands for National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections—not National Movement for Free Elections.

* * *

IN THE MAY 16 ISSUE, the editorial on Page A14—"Isolated cases?"—misstated the first name of President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer. The lawyer's name is Romulo—not Romeo—Macalintal.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Foreign observers: We felt safer in Afghanistan

From page A1

2004 and 2005 in Afghanistan.

She said she felt safer in Afghanistan than last Monday.

"Of course, we were also afraid of the underground Taliban ... but at least we don't have shooting... the threat from two sides when you go anywhere and the guns that sometimes are poised," she added.

Hot in Mindanao

The observers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand spent eight days in six ARMM provinces and visited more than 500 precincts.

Mohamad Yunus Lebai Ali, director of the National Institute for Electoral Integrity (NIEI) in Malaysia, said it was "a hot situation" in Mindanao, particularly in Tawi-Tawi and Sulu.

"We are not passing judgment. We came here more as a fact-finding mission to learn from each other and observe. We have universal criteria of elections," he stressed, including whether the exercise was peaceful, free and fair.

Ali said the observers agreed that the atmosphere was not conducive to elections in the visited ARMM provinces .

No secrecy in voting

"I did not feel physically safe, what more the voters?" he said.

"It's not to say the election was fair. We saw how protection took place, many cases of vote manipulation. It's very hard to say there was no cheating up to election day," he said.

Ali said that being free meant the voting must be done confidentially, which was not the case in the precincts the observers visited.

"We observed a lot of coaching inside precincts where people were being commanded to write the names and I myself observed flying voters in truck loads with 20-25 of them coming to precincts," he stressed.

Women participation

Somsri noted the deployment of military personnel outside the voting centers in schools.

But she also noted some positive things, such as more women participation in all aspects of the electoral processes, the festive mood in most polling precincts despite the long lines of voters and the vigilance of civil society.

"It is a fiesta of democracy and I take it as celebration of democracy," she said.

Amim Shah Bin Iskandor of Malaysia said he talked to some people who even tried to sell their votes, something he had never experienced in his country.

"To me, it is very cheap, just P20. This incident happened one day before the election. They're not afraid and they showed money, they got it," Iskandor said.

The observers blamed the "clan system" for the continuing political dynasties in the Philippines and said this was not good for the Philippines and other Asian countries.

Use symbols for candidates

Rashid Rashad of Sri Lanka's People's Action for Fair and Free Elections compared the Philippines' antiquated voting process with the more advanced card system used in Sri Lanka's elections.

"The people are not educated, the ballots are very big. Why don't you introduce a card system where people just have to choose symbols (for candidates) to make it more simple for voters? The long paper is discouraging voters," she said.

Proposals for reform

The team proposed several electoral reforms:

- Election offenses must be addressed swiftly.
- The law on campaign finance should be enforced. Overspendinng must be discouraged, and the source of funding should be clear.
- Cut down the cost of campaigning and enhance accountability and representation by having senators elected by region rather than nationwide.
- The antidynasty provision of the Constitution should be implemented to limit the number of politicians from the same family or political clan.
- The Commission on Elections must be more professional and those who misuse their power should be disqualified.
- The local election should be separated from the national to make the process simpler and more transparent.
- The law on modernization should be implemented in coming elections. *With reports from Cathy Yamsuan and AP*

FAMILY WITHOUT A MOTHER: Leticia Ramos left behind husband Perpetou, 54 (center, 2nd row); Leah 25, Liezl, 3, Lito, 20; Lovely, 18; Philip, 16; Peter Jay, 13; Lalaine, 11 and Lyka, 9. Not in photo is eldest child Lenyfer, 26, who went to Manila. ERNIE USARMIENTO

SHOCK AND AWE: Election observers from Pakistan, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka visit the Namfrel headquarters at Greenhills where the canvassing of votes is ongoing. JOAN BONDOC

Cayetano woes: No relief from Supreme Court, DepEd memo

From page A1

12, less than 24 hours after the Commission on Elections en banc declared Joselito Cayetano of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan a nuisance candidate.

In the memo, Sunga ordered regional directors and schools division superintendents of the Department of Education to inform all public school teachers serving in the board of election inspectors (BEIs) to still consider Joselito Cayetano a valid candidate, on grounds that the Comelec en banc's May 11 decision was supposedly not yet final and executory.

So it's the status quo for Alan Cayetano, with the Supreme Court en banc merely directing his namesake and the Comelec to comment within 10 days on the petition he filed on Tuesday.

This means that "Cayetano" votes are still considered stray and not counted in his favor.

The justices met in a special en banc session earlier yesterday to discuss the petition seeking to make permanent Joselito Cayetano's disqualification as a candidate.

According to Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez, Alan Cayetano's petition did not raise strong enough arguments to warrant the issuance of a temporary restraining order on the Comelec's decision not to finalize Joselito Cayetano's disqualification.

"Before you can get a TRO from the court, [it] must find your case to be really very meritorious. Apparently, there were no sufficient allegations to merit the issuance of a TRO," Marquez told reporters.

Other remedies

Marquez said that depending on future events, there was a chance Alan Cayetano's petition could in effect be rendered moot.

He said Alan Cayetano could still seek other remedies, like filing an election protest.

He also said the justices had to get the comments of Joselito Cayetano and the Comelec so that they could get a complete picture of the issues, such as how many days Joselito Cayetano had to appeal the Comelec's March 27 ruling disqualifying him.

Marquez said the Supreme Court recognized the urgency of Alan Cayetano's petition, which was why it called for a special en banc session yesterday to discuss the matter. The high court is currently on recess.

He said seven justices attended the en banc session—Acting Chief Justice Leonardo Quisumbing and Justices Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Antonio Carpio, Renato Corona, Adolf Azcuna, Antonio Nachura and Dante Tinga. The other justices are on leave.

Alan Cayetano had accused the Comelec of deliberately confusing the electorate in not removing his namesake's name from the list of senatorial candidates and declaring that "Cayetano" votes would not be counted in any one's favor.

Despite the decision, quick counts have shown that Cayetano among the top 12 vote-getters in the senatorial race.

CAYETANO

1st time

At the GO headquarters, Cayetano showed reporters copies of the May 12 DepEd memo.

"This is the first time that the DepEd issued a memo for a nuisance candidate," he said, adding that he got hold of a copy only yesterday.

In the memo titled "Case of Joselito Cayetano"—a copy of which was furnished Education Secretary Jesli Lapus—Sunga claimed that the Comelec en banc's May 11 resolution disqualifying Joselito Cayetano had "not yet become final and executory" because he was not yet served a copy of the resolution.

To justify his claim, Sunga attached a copy of a memo by the Comelec law department director, Alioden Dalaig, saying the poll body's records showed that Joselito Cayetano "was not yet served with a copy" of the en banc resolution.

"Accordingly, in connection with said memorandum of Atty. Dalaig, you are hereby directed to inform all chairmen and members of the [BEIs] that Joselito P. Cayetano is still a candidate on May 14, 2007, and may be validly voted for," said Sunga.

"By reason of the foregoing, if only the word 'Cayetano' is written on the ballot, the vote shall be considered stray," he said.

Sunga was appointed to the DepEd by Malacañang in April 2006, three months before Lapus, a third-termer Tarlac representative, was named education secretary.

Not DepEd initiative

Lapus, however, said the Sunga memo was "not an initiative" of the DepEd.

He said the DepEd "merely disseminated information that was given to us by the [Comelec]."

"We just totally and completely followed Comelec instructions," Lapus told the INQUIRER. He added that DepEd critics were "barking up the wrong tree."

Lapus made similar statements during a news conference held earlier yesterday at the DepEd headquarters in Pasig City.

To the INQUIRER, he said the memo was "nothing personal."

"It's clear we're just following Comelec directives," he said.

But Alan Cayetano said the DepEd memo defending Joselito Cayetano's inclusion in the candidates' list was just the latest among the series of roadblocks aimed at derailing his candidacy.

He pointed out that the DepEd did not bother to issue a similar memo when the namesake candidate of his fellow GO senatorial candidate, Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, was disqualified by a division of the poll body and later by the Comelec en banc.

Impeachment case

Whatever happens, Alan Cayetano is considering filing an impeachment case against Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., and perhaps even the election commissioners.

"We are still studying the matter, but win or lose we are thinking of taking action against the Comelec," his lawyer, Leila de Lima, told the INQUIRER.

De Lima said her client's camp had received information from Comelec insiders that the poll body intentionally dragged its feet in resolving the disqualification case against Joselito Cayetano.

"We'd like to find out who is behind the deliberate delay in the disposing of those two incidents—our motion to declare the division resolution as final and executory and the [opposition] to the motion for reconsideration of Joselito himself. [The Comelec] could have disposed of both incidents at the same time, and much earlier than May 10 or 11," De Lima said, adding:

"We have inside information that [the delay] was really deliberate."

De Lima also said it was beyond the authority of the DepEd to issue a similar memo to the BEIs reiterating the instructions of the Comelec law department.

She described the Comelec memo as "sweeping" as it apparently forgot a provision in the rules of appreciation of ballots that said that if there were two candidates with the same surname and a voter cast a vote for one along with his/her partymates, the vote should be credited to that candidate, and not the other because the intent to vote for the slate was "apparent."

Chronology

The Comelec's first division, composed of Commissioners Resurreccion Borra, Romeo Brawner and Rene Sarmiento, ruled in a March 27 decision that Joselito Cayetano was a nuisance candidate.

Joselito Cayetano filed a motion for reconsideration (MR).

On April 17, Alan Cayetano filed an opposition to Joselito's MR with a motion to declare the division ruling final and executory, claiming that the latter had filed his MR beyond the deadline set by the Comelec.

On May 10, the Comelec decided that Joselito Cayetano's MR was filed within the prescribed period.

The next day, the Comelec en banc issued a resolution upholding the decision of the first division declaring Joselito Cayetano a nuisance candidate and ordered that his name be stricken off the official list of candidates.

But on May 12—two days before Election Day—the Comelec itself went on a media blitz explaining that Joselito Cayetano was still an official candidate until its resolution becomes final after five days, and until he files an appeal before the Supreme Court.

The Comelec's law department also said in a memo to all BEIs that all "Cayetano" votes should be considered stray. *With reports from Jerry Esplanada and Nikko Dizon*

'No, this is not my son'; Jonas Burgos still missing

From page A1

health officer who examined the body which had two gunshot wounds in the head. "Did you see any birthmarks or a mole at the back?" When told that there were none, Burgos looked closer at the picture again.

"His fingernails are well-cut and clean. His hairline is different. No, this is not my son," said Burgos, widow of the late newspaper publisher and press freedom fighter Jose "Joe" Burgos Jr., the father of Jonas.

Burgos motored here on Tuesday with Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, Philippine National Police (PNP) head of human rights affairs Chief Supt. German Doria and a team from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Service (CIDG) to verify the identity of the male cadaver found on a rough road in Barangay, Mabatang, some 100 meters from the highway.

Strangulation marks

_ Mendoza, who examined the body, said the hands of the dead man were tied behind his back with a black cord. She said the cadaver also bore strangulation marks on the neck. She said the man may have been dead six to eight hours before the body was discovered.

The police report described the cadaver as slim built and fair complexioned, about 5 feet 6 inches tall, probably between 35 and 38 years old and wearing denim pants, Reebok rubber shoes and a polo shirt colored blue and white.

The description bore a resemblance to the missing 36-year-old Jonas. An agriculturist, Jonas was training leftist peasants on organic farming when he was abducted on April 28 at the Gotesco Ever Mall on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

But his mother was certain it was not her son Jonas. "Those are not his fingernails, they are too well-cut," Burgos told the INQUIRER. She said she was also able to talk to her son on April 29. "But he sounded drugged or incoherent," she also said.

"There must be a mother and wife somewhere who is also looking for a missing son or husband. Please make the necessary announcement so this man can be properly identified," Burgos told the Abucay police.

Experiment on tracking

The police had buried the unidentified cadaver at the municipal cemetery here on May 2.

CHR Chair Purificacion Quisumbing organized the trip following a report from concerned citizens about an unidentified cadaver that the police buried after it lay unclaimed at the V. Senio funeral parlor here for days.

The sending of the composite team was an "experiment" on how to find missing activists since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power in 2001.

"Can you imagine how it is to lose a son or daughter?" Quisumbing told Doria of the PNP. "We will have to find them, one by one."

Karapatan, a human rights group, has listed over 180 victims of forced disappearance since 2001. The group has blamed the military for the disappearances.

The Burgos family suspects the military was involved in the abduction of Jonas after the car license plate (TAB 194) which was used in the getaway vehicle was traced to another vehicle that was impounded last year at the 56th Infantry Battalion headquarters in Norzagaray Bulacan

THE SEARCH FOR JONAS BURGOS goes on after his relieved mother Edita Burgos, Rep. Etta Rosales and other human rights groups visit a site where a man found dead in Abucay, Bataan, turned out not to be the missing activist-agriculturist. EDWIN BACASMAS

Palace cold to prospect of a Sen. Trillanes

TRILLANES

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATOR TRILlanes?

Malacañang is cold to the prospect of Oakwood mutiny leader Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV sitting as one of the honorable members of the new Senate in July.

Trillanes, who campaigned from his detention cell, made an unexpectedly strong showing in the May 14 polls in what is widely seen as a stinging rebuke of the Arroyo administration.

"If he gets elected then he still has to acquit himself before the military justice system and the civilian courts on the (coup d'etat)cases against him," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

As to whether the government will allow him out of detention should he win a mandate, Ermita said: "that's another story...there is a case against him."

Ermita said Trillanes' good showing in early poll tallies could be due to his high media exposure in Metro Manila.

Ermita said Trillanes' popularity and high public awareness rating is likely due to his participation in Oakwood, a military mutiny popularly named after the posh hotel in Makati City that was taken over by Trillanes and other reformist young officers. They denounced corruption in the military leadership and called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

"But his means was wrong so he is in jail now. How he will be able to get out of that is another story. A crime is a crime." Ermita said.

Ermita also believes Trillanes only ranked in Metro Manila. "I don't know how he will fare in the Visayas and Mindanao... especially in Mindanao," he said.

Although Trillanes has been projected as being reform-minded, Ermita said his good showing did not mean the electorate approved of his means of attaining his objectives. "Neither can it be considered a repudiation of Ms Arroyo," Ermita insisted.

"Not necessarily, maybe they just looked at him as a young man with ambition and, as you said, reform-minded but let's see whether that would be enough to bring him to the Senate," Ermita said.

Earlier, Mahar Mangahas, president of the survey firm Social Weather Stations, said the perception that Trillanes was being persecuted could be the reason for the rebel officer's surprising showing even without personally being able to campaign.

Genuine Opposition campaign manager Serge Osmeña II described him as their "dark horse."

Anti-government pundits also see it as a warning that military unrest remains a problem in the country.

Aside from Trillanes, his co-accused in the 2003 military mutiny, former rebel colonel Gregorio Honasan is also showing up well in the initial tallies, while former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson is in the top five.

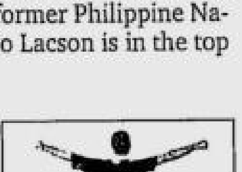
Asean air chiefs due for confab

By Tarra Quismundo

AIR DEFENDERS from around Southeast Asia will gather in Manila this July for an annual fellowship aimed at strengthening their brotherhood and sharing experiences and ideas to better protect their territories and the region.

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) will host the 4th Annual Air Chief's Conference in July, an event that will gather commanding generals of the air forces of Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Set on July 1 to 5, the event will bring the 10 Asean air chiefs together for the first time in Manila, coinciding with PAF's celebration of its 60th anniversary.



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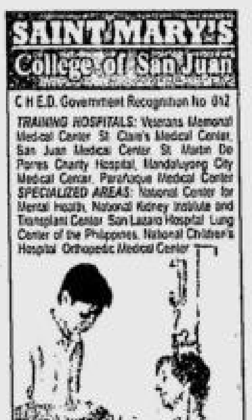

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Republic of the Philippines
Center for Health Development - X
NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
Capitol Compound, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER (NMMC), through the General Appropriations Act 2007 intends to apply the sum of **Three Million Two Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Thirty Eight Pesos and Seventy One Centavos (Php 3,276,038.71)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the procurement of Various Drugs and Medicines. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Northern Mindanao Medical Center now invites Bids from eligible bidders for Drugs and Medicines. Delivery of the goods is required by June to December, 2007. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." And is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Northern Mindanao Medical Center and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). The method of payment will be through Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **May 24, 2007 - 2:00 PM at NMMC Auditorium.**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **9:00 AM of June 6, 2007**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash/Cashier's Check (One percent of the ABC) or Bank Guarantee (One and one-half percent of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **June 6, 2007, 9:00 AM at NMMC Auditorium.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
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(Sgd.) **JOSE C. CHAN, MD, FPCS, FPOA, MHA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–May 17, 2007)

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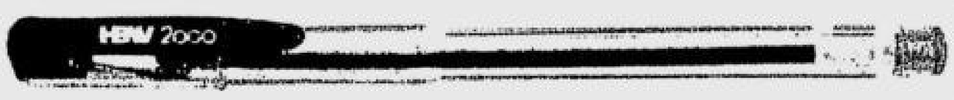
WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

"HBW 2000" is the brand name of a popular high quality ballpoint pen manufactured abroad, owned and distributed by **HBW Enterprise Company,** with offices located at Rm. 705 Muelle de Divisoria, Binondo, Manila. **HBW Enterprise Company** has pending patent applications for the Industrial Design, as well as the Trademark, with the Intellectual Property Office, with Application Serial No. 03-2006-000012 and 04-2005-001553.

Below is a photograph of the genuine **HBW 2000** ballpoint pen:



It has come to the attention of **HBW Enterprise Company** that a number of manufacturers, taking advantage of the popularity of the ballpen, has been using the same design and features in their own product. The size, color and appearance of the ballpen they are manufacturing and distributing are similar if not completely identical to the original **HBW 2000**. But they would place their own brand or trademark on their ballpen in order to **MISLEAD** the public.

We would like to warn the public about the imitation ballpoint pen. **HBW Enterprise Company** is the owner of the Industrial Design with a pending patent application. To be sure, purchase **HBW 2000** ballpoint pens only from authorized and reputable dealers and outlet stores.

As for those who trade in the imitation ballpen, this is a clear case of violation of R.A. 8293, a criminal activity which carries with it penal as well as civil sanctions under the provisions of R.A. 8293, and related laws, rules and regulations. We have enlisted the aid of various law enforcement agencies and legal action is forthcoming. Cease and desist now or face the consequences.

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Muelle de Divisoria
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Counsel for HBW Enterprises
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Telefax: 927-6228
E-mail Address: attyang@pacific.net.ph.

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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN RE: APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED MODIFIED BILL FORMAT OF PANGASINAN I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INCORPORATED (PANELCO 1)

ERC CASE NO. 2007-243 MC

x--x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Notice is hereby given that the public consultation on Pangasinan I Electric Cooperative, Incorporated (PANELCO I) "Proposed Modified Bill Format" is scheduled on **May 31, 2007 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.) at the PANELCO I Conference Room, San Jose, Bani, Pangasinan.**

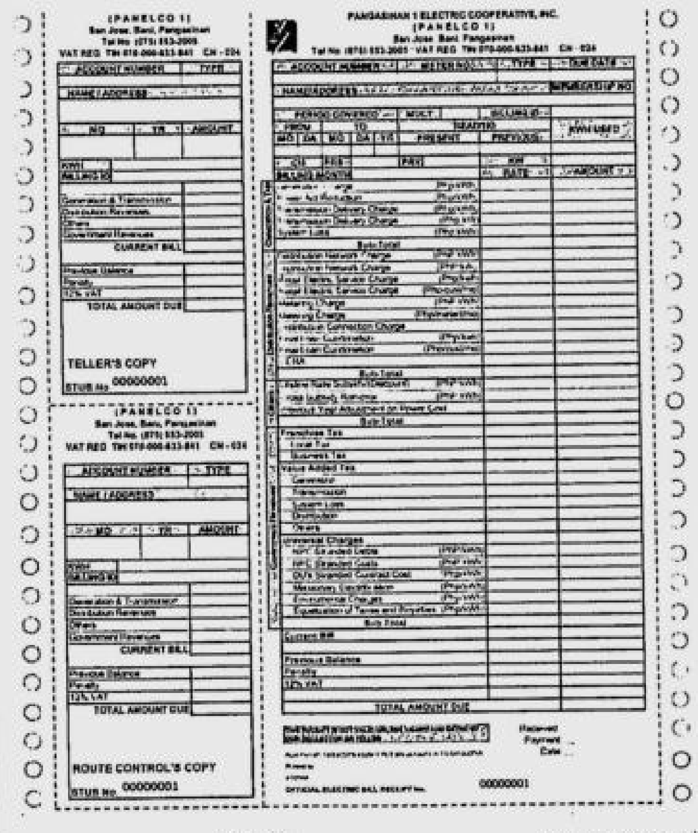
All interested parties may submit their comments (both hard and soft copies) on the Proposed Modified Bill Format on or before May 11, 2007. Electronic copies may be sent to **tarriffsrates@erc.gov.ph.** Parties who have filed their written comments on or before the prescribed period would be given priority during the above-scheduled public consultation. The Proposed Modified Bill Format may be photocopied at cost, during the regular office hours at the ERC Main Office at the above-mentioned address.

Pasig City, April 20, 2007.

FOR AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION:

(Sgd.) **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN**
Commissioner

PROPOSED MODIFIED BILL FORMAT
(FRONT)



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TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
CURRENT BILL

The customer shall allow the distribution utility to use a suitable space for the installation of necessary metering equipment in order that such equipment will be protected from damage by the elements, or through the negligence or deliberate acts of any person or persons.

Article 31. Obligation to Receive Monthly Bills – Consumers must accept their electric bills, without prejudice to the exercise of their right to pay under protest pursuant to Article 26 of this Magna Carta in order to contest the same.

Article 32. Obligation to Pay Monthly Electric Bills – Consumers must pay their bills not later than nine (9) days after receipt of the monthly bills.

Note: Schedule of rates applicable will be furnished upon request.

PAKIUSAP

Ikinalulungkot ng pangasiwaan ang gawaing mamutol ng serbisyo sa kuryente sa mga hindi nagbabayad sa takdang panahon. Subalit ang lalong ikinalulungkot nito, ayon sa obserbasyon ng ating mga kawani sa "BILLING/ COLLECTION SECTION AT SUB-OFFICES", mayroong mga miyembro na karaniwang nakikita ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga naaantala o nahuhuli sa pagbayad buwan-buwan at napuputulan. Ibig sabihin nito, mayroong mga miyembro na matatawag na delinkuwente.

Sa mahaba-habang panahon, kapansinpansin na halos lahat ng nasasali sa listahan ng napuputulan ay siya ring madalas na makita ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga naputulan buwan-buwan. Kaya't nakikiusap ang pangasiwaan ng PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (PANELCO 1) sa mga kinauukulan na kung maaari ay makipagtulungan din sila sa pamamagitan ng pagbayad sa takdang panahon.

Ang "COLLECTION EFFICIENCY" o kakayahan ng isang kooperatiba sa pangungulekta ay may malaking tulong tungo sa maagang pagbayad sa NPC at TRANSCO at pantustos ng ibang gastusin para sa operasyon ng kooperatiba.

Inaasahan ng Pangasiwaan ang inyong kooperasyon.

GM ROLANDO O. REINOSO
PANELCO 1

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Pasig City P.O. Box 181 Green Hills Metro Manila
Website : http://www.erc.gov.ph
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Consumer Affairs Service Hotline: (02) 687-5577; (02) 687-5544

(BACK)
IMPORTANT NOTICE : EXCERPTS FROM THE MAGNA CARTA

Article 27. Right to file complaints before ERC – Every consumer has the right to file a complaint before the ERC for violation of ERC laws, rules, regulations, guidelines and policies, including but not limited to RA 9136 and its implementing Rules and Regulations, RA 7832 and its implementing Rules and Regulations and ERB Resolution No. 95-21, as amended; Provided, That the complainant has previously discussed/consulted the issue with the Consumer Welfare Desk (CWD) Officer or representative of the concerned distribution utility and no settlement has been reached.

Article 29. Obligation to Allow Inspection, Installation & Removal of Electricity Apparatus – Customers shall allow the employees and/or representatives of the distribution utility to enter their premises for the purpose of inspecting, installing, reading, testing, repairing, maintaining, removing, replacing, or otherwise disposing of its apparatus and property, and/or removing the distribution utility's entire property in the event of the termination of the electricity service contract; and for disconnection of service for non-payment of bills or violation of contract (VOC).

Provided, however, that only authorized employees and/ or representatives of the distribution utility with proper identification cards shall be allowed to make any external adjustments of any meter or any internal or external adjustments of any other pieces of apparatus owned by the distribution utility.

Article 30. Obligation to Allow the Construction of Poles, Lines and Circuits – Consumers shall allow the distribution utility, if necessary, to construct its poles, lines and circuits and to place its transformers, apparatus on their property or within the buildings of the consumer, at a point or points convenient for such purpose.

(PDI–May 17, 2007)

TU 12-0 in Maguindanao; Singson is topnotcher

From page A1

royo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on rigging votes in Mindanao during the 2004 elections. Ms Arroyo and Garcillano denied the allegations.

As of 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, partial results from 11 Maguindanao towns showed Singson, the governor of Ilocos Sur, topping the senatorial races with 87,954 votes.

Right behind Singson was Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay with 87,400 votes.

Others in the top 12 in Maguindanao were Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri, 86,698 votes; Joker Arroyo, 85,881; Vicente Sotto III, 85,115; Ralph Recto, 82,780; Mike Defensor, 81,914; Cesar Montano, 78,246; Vicente Magsaysay, 65,986; Teresita Aquino-Oreta, 64,386; Edgardo Angara, 63,422; and Sulu's Sultan Jamalul Kiram III, 63,071 votes.

Trailing in his own backyard

Singson's No. 1 ranking in Maguindanao sharply contrasted with his nationwide ranking in the count of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), which put him on the 23rd spot yesterday afternoon.

Singson also appeared to be faring badly in his own Ilocos region.

Although he was No. 1 in his home province of Ilocos Sur, he was ranked No. 15 in Ilocos Norte, No. 21 in Pangasinan and No. 28 in La Union, according to unofficial returns.

In the Maguindanao tally, Genuine Opposition (GO) candidates Francis Escudero got 27,625 votes; Aquilino Pimentel III, 20,485; Loren Legarda, 20,404, and Manuel Villar, 17,095.

Ampatuan as kingmaker

Maguindanao provincial administrator Norie Unas yesterday said the emerging sweep by TU was a result of extensive consultations held by provincial Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan with all officials of the province's local government units.

Ampatuan, who has allied himself with President Macapagal-Arroyo, was a former policeman who became a successful businessman. He is viewed as Maguindanao's de facto sultan and kingmaker.

The TU has said that so-called "command votes" from its bailiwicks would push administration candidates to the top of the senatorial races.

"Are they not tired of accusing us of an unfounded plan to cheat? That's totally baseless," TU's campaign strategist Ben Evardone said, rejecting opposition claims that the administration was rigging the votes.

Unas said one objective of the consultations that Ampatuan held with officials was to get people to go for bloc voting. The consultations included such matters as who the people should choose as their leaders.

Consensus

Unas said observers should look at Maguindanao's distinct political reality in the context of the Prophet Muhammad's teachings and shura is part of these.

Failure to heed the consensus is sanctioned, said Unas, who did not specify what punishment awaited those who defied the consensus.

"We often land in the headlines because of perceived manipulation, but if you become familiar with the (Islamic) culture of consultation, you would find nothing unusual," said Unas.

Unas said the outcome of the senatorial races in Maguindanao should be attributed to shura.

He said command vote existed in Maguindanao because of the provincial leadership's "strong advocacy of upholding Moro tradition and culture."

Doubtful credibility

In Lanao del Sur, poll monitors and foreign observers said Monday's elections in the province drew a large turnout but their credibility was doubtful.

Hadj Abdullah Dalidig, Namfrel provincial chair, said the same incidents "that spoiled the 2004 and even previous elections" marred Monday's balloting.

The incidents included armed confrontations among rivals, intimidation of voters and massive vote-buying, the influx of truckloads of flying voters, and disenfranchisement of legitimate ones.

Pakistani observer Mossarat Qadeem said there was massive "use of money or power to force voters to vote for a candidate."

Although the turnout was high, Qadeem doubted that the people in general "have real feelings for its (election's) essence."

Jump in number of voters

Dalidig said the "unexplained growth" of the province's voting population was "the foremost proof of irregularity."

From 275,572 in 2004, the number of registered voters in the province rose to 396,722, an increase of 43.9 percent in three years.

For Marawi, the voting population jumped to 56,476, from 37,231 in 2004, a 51.7-percent increase.

These numbers dwarfed those in Northern Mindanao, one of the island's magnets of migrants. The region had 2,128,568 registered voters in 2007, a 4-percent increase from 2,046,557 in 2004.

The supposed growth in Lanao del Sur's voting population occurred as thousands of legitimate voters were disenfranchised. Many of them searched for their names in the other precincts until 3 p.m., to no avail.

The civil society-initiated People's International Observer Mission (IOM) also documented the practice of allowing minors as young as 15 to 16 years old to vote.

Flying voters also littered the province.

The women disguised themselves by wearing a *kumbong* (veil) as they lined up to enter a polling center. But they could not hide their accents.

The INQUIRER learned many of them came from Iligan City and other towns. Some came from as far as Cagayan de Oro City.

Conditions for fraud

In many areas, polling centers opened two hours behind schedule, lessening voting time.

The delays led to a buildup of throngs of voters and to chaos in polling centers.

According to American observer Jessica Tulloch, the chaos created "all the conditions for cheating and fraud" to take place.

The IOM delegates found that vote-buying and coaching of voters inside election precincts were "very rampant with the poll watchers sitting beside voters dictating the names to be written on the ballots."

Some election monitors were worried about the frequency of brownouts, which could abet cheating.

The Commission on Elections has declared a failure of elections in 18 towns in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

In Koronadal City, a pastor of the Pentecostal church accused two congressional candidates of distributing five kilos of rice for each family in the province.

In Zamboanga del Norte, vote-buying was also rampant.

"I don't receive anything from government, anyway, so I'd rather accept the P1,500 for my vote," said a voter in Dapitan City.

But in Sulu, the police said they were surprised by how relatively peaceful the conduct of the elections was.

Targeted areas for cheating

Quoting a purported intelligence report on "Oplan Mercury Rising," the coalition Bantay Boto—composed of retired military and police officers—claimed the areas targeted for massive cheating were Ilocos Sur, Pampanga, Camarines Norte, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, Eastern Samar, Lanao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Shariff Kabunsuan.

The regions identified for alleged fraud operations were Central Visayas, Davao, Caraga and the ARMM.

These areas are estimated to have close to 15 million voters.

Bantay Boto said local government and Comelec officials had been "offered huge cash incentives" to deliver a 12-0 win for TU. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac in Manila, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Germelina Lacorte, Ramil Bangues, Julie S. Alipala, Jeoffrey Maitem, Bert Laput, Franklin Caliguid, Edwin O. Fernandez, Ferdinand O. Zuasola, JB Deveza and Inquirer Mindanao*

'Special elections' for 18 Mindanao towns

By Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—THE COMmission on Elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is calling for "special elections" in the region's 18 towns where failure of elections had been declared.

"We recommended that the same (special elections) be set immediately so that before the end of the term of incumbent elective officials on June 30, these areas could already have elections and the duly elected official proclaimed," ARMM Comelec director Rey Sumalipao said.

There are more than 100,000 registered voters in the affected areas. In a close senatorial race, that number could affect the last two slots in the winning circle.

The Comelec declared on Monday night the failure of elections in Tubaran, Madalum, Lumbanayague, Sultan Dumalondong, Marugong, Pualas, Lumbatan and Lumbacaunayan, Butig, Kapai, Binidayan, Kapatagan, Bayang, Lumba Bayabao and Masiu in Lanao del Sur, and in Barira, Shariff Kabunsuan.

Voters in the towns of Akbar and Sumisip in Basilan also failed to cast their ballots.

Teachers, who were to serve in the elections in these areas, have refused to report for work because of intimidation and threats.

Sumalipao said he had submitted his recommendation to the Comelec central office in Manila so the commission could come up with an en banc resolution.

The move, he said, was meant "to ensure that enough notice shall be issued to our registered voters."

Trillanes hangs on to Magic 12

From page A1

TU's Juan Miguel Zubiri who earlier placed 12th in the winning circle dropped to No. 13 with Trillanes' reentry.

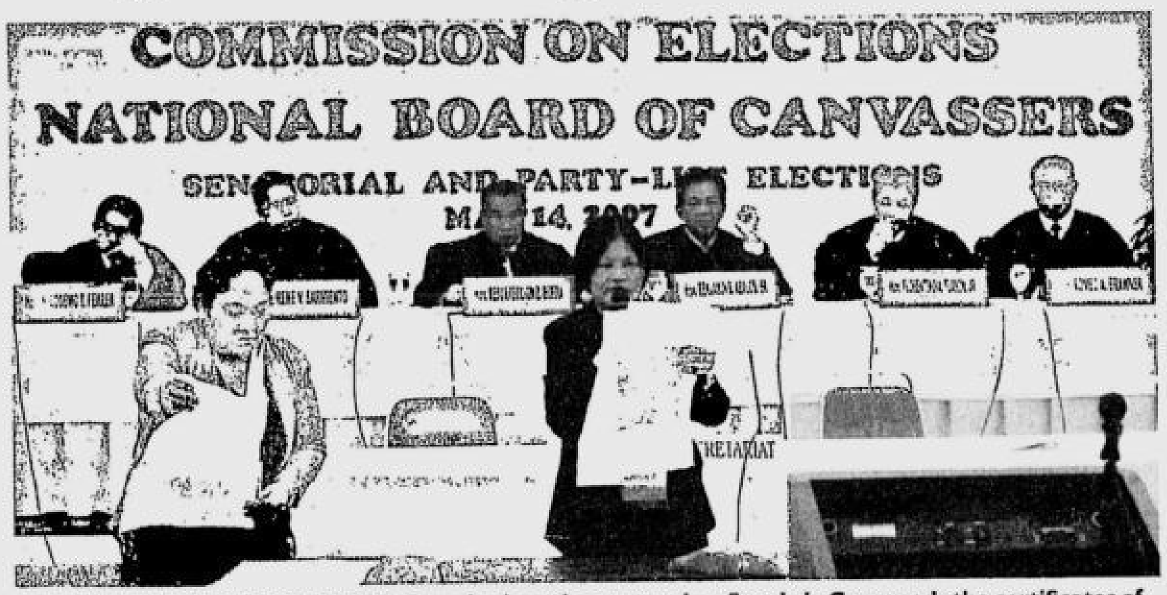
From 8th place, Trillanes slid to 13th place yesterday afternoon before climbing to 11th place last night. TU's Edgardo Angara and Joker Arroyo maintained their steady climb in the Magic 12 in the Namfrel count.

GO's Francis Escudero, who was trailing fellow GO candidate Loren Legarda yesterday afternoon, captured the top slot last night but by a very narrow margin of 116 votes.

GO's Alan Peter Cayetano climbed to 9th place from 10th, exchanging places with independent Gregorio Honasan who slid to 10th. Aquilino Pimentel III of GO dropped from 11th place to 12th.

The women's group Gabriela was the front-runner among party-list groups, followed by Buhay and Bayan Muna. *(See table.)*

At its headquarters at the La Salle gym in Greenhills, San Juan, Namfrel had so far counted votes from 24,394 precincts from all regions.


COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
NATIONAL BOARD OF CANVASSERS
SENATORIAL AND PARTY-LIST ELECTIONS
MAY 14, 2007

OFFICIAL TABULATION BEGINS: Comelec board secretary Josefina de la Cruz reads the certificates of canvass for senatorial and party-list election at the PICC Convention Center on Wednesday. Behind are the Comelec commissioners headed by Chair Benjamin Abalos (3rd from right) sitting as the National Board of Canvassers. The other Comelec Commissioners (from left) are Nicodemo Ferrer, Rene Sarmiento, Resurreccion Borra, Florentino Tuason Jr. and Romeo Brawner. ROGER MARGALLO

Results from 15 countries

Over at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City, the official Comelec tabulation of the certificates of canvass (CoCs) for the senatorial elections began yesterday with results from 15 countries and a US territory in the overseas absentee voting.

The votes came from the following countries: Laos, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, South Korea, Austria, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Netherlands, Japan, India, Thailand, Bahrain, and Palau, a US territory.

There was a total of 38,469 registered voters in these places but only 5,742 or almost 15 percent voted in May.

Only one voted in Slovenia. No votes were cast in Kiribati and Solomon Islands.

Angara rose from 11th place at the start of the Namfrel tabulation Tuesday morning to 7th place last night, while Arroyo climbed from 12th to 8th place.

Legarda topped tabulations in Regions 1, 2, 8, 11, 12 and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Escudero was No. 1 in Metro Manila, Regions 4, 5 and 10, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Caraga.

Angara remained in 1st place in Central Luzon and Region 7.

Panfilo Lacson of GO was No. 1 in Region 9 tabulations and maintained his 3rd place standing in the Namfrel count with 996,017 votes.

GO guest candidate Manuel Villar was first in Region 6 and placed fourth on the Namfrel list.

Independent candidate Francisco Pangilinan was steady at No. 5.

Benigno Aquino III also maintained his standing in 6th place.

Trailing Trillanes

Trailing Trillanes were Pimentel, Zubiri TU's Ralph Recto at No. 14; Prospero Pichay at No. 15 and Michael Defensor at No. 16.

GO's Sonia Roco was in 17th place followed TU's Cesar Montano and GO's John Osmeña.

Along with Trillanes, Roco and Osmeña's rankings dropped dramatically as tabulations from the various regions came in yesterday.

Roco started in 13th place when Namfrel began its tabulation. Osmeña initially was in 16th place.

Pichay enjoyed a steady climb from No. 18 since Namfrel began its count.

Comelec count

In the Comelec count, Pangilinan was in 1st place, followed by Legarda. Aquino was in 3rd place; Villar, 4th, and Escudero, 5th. Arroyo was in 6th place; Lacson, 7th; Cayetano, 8th; Angara, 9th; Pimentel, 10th; Roco, 11th, and Defensor, 12th.

Zubiri was in 13th place, followed by Vicente "Tito" Sotto, Honasan and Osmeña.

The canvassing will resume today at 10 a.m. with CoCs from Malaysia and vote-rich Hong Kong.

At a press conference, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said that the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) hoped to complete the canvassing for both OAV and CoCs from the provinces and Metro Manila "within 10 days" and proclaim the winners.

Abalos said that the NBC might partially canvass the CoCs in the 13 municipalities in Lanao del Sur depending on the election results there following a yet-to-be-scheduled special elections in the province.

"If the result of the 13 municipalities could no longer affect the result of the national position for senators, then we would not have to wait for the results of the special elections," Abalos said.

Roco's visit

Roco paid a visit to the Namfrel headquarters last night, intending to ask which areas in Mindanao the citizen's arm had already included in its tabulation.

In an ambush interview, Roco expressed concern over "30 towns in Mindanao" where the Commission on Elections had declared a failure of elections.

"This is a recurring phenomenon, or event, that every election, that a failure of elections is declared in certain towns, usually in the same places. They (authorities) should hold the elections in these places in the next 15 days," she said.

Roco noted that an estimated 300,000 votes could still be counted from the problematic areas, a number that is significant enough to alter the outcome of the senatorial race.

Still, Roco expressed confidence that her current rank would still improve because both Namfrel and Comelec tabulations were still in their early stages of counting. *Kristine Mangunay, Aaron John del Rosario, Cyrian Agujo and Nathaniel Melican*

PARTY-LIST VOTES

Namfrel as of 9:11p.m.
29,855 precincts out of 224,748

Rank	Party-list	Votes
1	GABRIELA	57,504
2	BUHAY	50,034
3	BAYAN MUNA	46,416
4	APEC	33,610
5	CIBAC	31,631
6	AMIN	29,629
7	AKBAYAN	25,030
8	ADD	23,584
9	COOP-NATCCO	22,569
10	BUTIL	22,182
11	ABAKADA	21,361
12	KAKUSA	19,324
13	BATAS	18,521
14	ALAGAD	15,967
15	ABA ILONGGO	14,074
16	ANAKPAWIS	13,646
17	ANAD	13,440
18	FPJPM	11,807
19	ABS	11,255
20	KABATAAN	11,062
21	ABA-AKO	10,217
22	SENIOR CITIZENS	9,774
23	ARC	9,493
24	ANAK	9,099
25	1-UTAK	8,569
26	AA-KASOSYO	8,539
27	AGHAM	8,506
28	TUCP	8,465
29	VFP	8,408
30	COCOFED	7,185

By conceding early, Garci up to no good–Ping, Nene

From page A1

quickly concede defeat in his congressional bid in the first district of Bukidnon.

"Either he wants to project that he's not capable of cheating, which nobody will believe, or some Malacañang wise guys are up to something fishy that needs his full-time attention and hands-on expertise," reelectionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson said in a phone interview.

"In both cases, he had to concede early to be effective."

In a statement, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said: "Garcillano's concession of defeat this early is not a sign of sportsmanship but an offer of his availability to work for Team Unity (TU) candidates by means fair or foul, of which he has expertise."

The INQUIRER tried to get Garcillano's reaction to Lacson's and Pimentel's claims but text messages to him drew no replies.

Garcillano became an indelible part of Philippine election history after the release in 2005 of the so-called "Hello Garci" tapes dealing with his supposed wiretapped phone conversations with President Macapagal-Arroyo on rigging the results of the 2004 presidential election.

In defense of Garci

Both Ms Arroyo and Garcillano denied they were involved in cheating.

Garcillano's friend, Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., who is running for the Senate, yesterday took the cudgels for the former election official.

"If he cannot cheat for himself, how can he cheat for others? *Tama na* (Enough already)," Pichay said on the phone.

He called on the opposition to "stop prosecuting" his friend.

"He's been persecuted too much. Let's give him a rest. If he really cheated in 2004, he could have won this election by cheating," Pichay said.

Vulnerable areas

With Garcillano's defeat in the congressional race in Bukidnon, "the issue of Garci tapes should be laid to rest," Pichay said. "Let us move forward."

He added: "*Natalo na nga aapakan pa nyo* (Don't kick a man when he's down). Where is your heart?"

Lacson said the opposition's poll watchers were training their sights on vulnerable areas during the canvassing, where he claimed switching of election returns, or vote tallies, was likely to take place.

These include the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and areas in Visayas and Mindanao where administration candidates ran unopposed, he said.

"ARMM itself has 2 million votes and it can make a difference between winning and losing for candidates hovering between the 10th and 15th spots," Lacson said. *(See related story on page A1.)*

'Cheating machinery'

"Based on past experiences, the elections there will only start after the counting has taken place. The elections are bid out there per vote for as much as you need to overcome the lead because people there normally leave the national posts blank and fill up only the governor and other local posts."

Pimentel claimed the "cheating machinery" of the Arroyo administration was now at work in Mindanao.

"I have received information that operators identified with the Comelec (Commission on Elections) arrived in Davao Tuesday. They are farming out to Davao and other Mindanao provinces to cause delay in the canvass of the votes to save TU bets from a massacre," Pimentel said.

Pimentel has lambasted Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. for his refusal to penalize election supervisors allegedly involved in "dagdag-bawas" (vote-padding and -shaving) operations in the 2004 elections.

Worse, Pimentel said, these poll officials were even promoted.

3 Pinays first SEA women to conquer Mt. Everest

From page A1

women to traverse Everest, climbing from the North Side to the peak, then down the South Side. (The first traverse of Everest was done by Willi Unsoeld and Tom Hornbein on May 22, 1963. Tibetan Phantog is the first woman to reach the summit from the North Side on May 25, 1975).

The distinction of being the first women to traverse Mt. Everest cost the team an extra $9,000 in fees—$3,000 for each climber for the permit to traverse the mountain from the north to the south side.

According to Valdez, the women hope to reach Camp 2 on the South Side (established at 6,500 meters or 21,300 feet) today, and Everest Base Camp (at 5,380 m or 17,600 ft) tomorrow.

Valdez said Wenceslao, 27, who had earlier suffered from acute mountain sickness, reached the summit at 6:10 a.m. Nepal time (around 8:10 a.m. Philippine time) together with her Sherpa guide Lakpa Gyalzen.

Dayondon, 28, arrived 10 minutes later with Pemba Choti.

Valdez said Belarmino, also 28, reached the top at around 7:45 a.m. Nepal time with Pasang Norbu. (But ABS-CBN, a sponsor of the climb, put Belarmino's time at around 11 a.m. Manila time.)

Belarmino delivered her first baby just five months ago. The child, a boy, is named Himalaya.

"They are in good health and in high spirits," team doctor Ted Esguerra said in a text message to officials monitoring the expedition in Manila yesterday morning.

"They are encouraged by the prayers of their friends and families. They are feeling strong," Esguerra said.

1st Asean women

Valdez said Wenceslao, Dayondon and Belarmino also had a lock on the title "the first Southeast Asian women to summit Mt. Everest."

A Malaysian woman is on South Side this climbing season, but the Filipinos beat her to the punch because the North Side has an earlier summit window.

EVEREST, HERE THEY COME: Three days before their departure for Nepal, Carina Dayondon, Noelle Wenceslao and Janet Belarmino pose for a souvenir shot with the Coast Guard information officer Armand Balilo. COAST GUARD

A BABY NAMED HIMALAYA: Summiter Janet Belarmino delivered her baby just five months before her historic rise to the roof of the world. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Another Filipino expected to reach top soon

ANOTHER PHILIPPINE TEAM IS ALSO aiming to reach the summit of Mt. Everest.

The team, which is on the South Side, is headed by Reggie Pablo, a leader of the original First Philippine Mt. Everest verest Expedition Team that has broken up into two factions.

Pablo told the INQUIRER last month that he, too, was determined to take a team and climb the South Side en route to the summit.

It is unclear who his companions are.

It is quite possible that two teams driven by the same passion but split by personal differences and money problems may actually meet on the world's highest mountain. *Alcuin Papa*

Indonesian Clara Sumawati was said to have reached the peak in 1996, but mountaineers told the INQUIRER that this feat was disputed.

On May 16, 1975, Junko Tabei of Japan became the first woman to reach the summit of Everest from the South Side. The Filipino women's feat came 32 years to the day.

(And one year ago today, Leo Oracion became the first Filipino to reach the top of Everest. Two others—Pastour Emata and Romi Garduce—followed suit a day each later.)

"The girls are in good shape and the weather is very clear, with winds of between 20 and 30 km per hour. It's a great moment. It symbolizes what we can do if we work together," Valdez said.

"It also shows the strength of the Filipina. *Ang Pinay naaabot ang tuktok; kaya ng Pinay* (The Pinay reaches the peak; the Pinay can)," he said, repeating the slogan for this year's expedition.

More treacherous route

The North Side route is considered the more treacherous compared to the South Side.

Valdez, who called from the Tibet Advanced Base Camp at 6,500 m or 21,300 ft, lamented the conditions on the route.

"*Mas mahirap dito* (It's harder here). It's hard to breathe here. The Tibet Advance Base Camp is higher than the South Side Base Camp," he said in between coughs.

Valdez was at the South Side Base Camp as a member of the support team of Oracion and Emata last year.

Wenceslao, Dayondon and Belarmino had been scheduled to push for the summit last week, but had to postpone their target because of bad weather.

Traffic jams

They also had to make an early push for the summit to avoid the "traffic jams" on the way down the South Side, Valdez said.

Team doctor Esguerra "took care" of Wenceslao, who was afflicted with pulmonary edema.

"Every step of the way, the doctor was monitoring her condition," Valdez said.

Valdez and Esguerra were accompanied by Emata on the North Side.

Waiting at the South Side are Oracion, John Fortes of the Philippine Airlines Mountaineering Club, and Wenceslao's father Peewee.

The First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team was formed by Valdez and co-expedition leader Butch Sebastian two years ago.

The two men chose experienced adventure racers and mountaineers to put the first Filipinos on Everest.

A physical education major at the University of the Philippines, Wenceslao is an "extreme adventure athlete," dragon boat rower and a member of the UP Mountaineers.

Dayondon, the youngest member of the team, has been scaling mountains since she was 17 and studying at the Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

Belarmino is a champion triathlete, and also an adventure racer, lawn tennis coach, sport climber, fitness instructor, and a member of the UP Mountaineers.

The team went into training in earnest, flying to New Zealand to learn alpine climbing. In August 2005, the three women reached the summit of Mt. Muztagh-Ata (7,546 m or 24,758 ft) on the China-Pakistan border. This was the previous record for the highest altitude reached by any Filipino woman.

On June 23, 2006, the team scaled Mt. McKinley (6,194 m or 20,230 ft) at the Denali National Park in Alaska, the highest peak in North America. In October last year, the team was at Mt. Cho-Oyu in the Himalayas, the sixth highest mountain at 8,201 m or 26,906 ft.

The team split up sometime in December 2006 over personal problems and disagreements over Valdez's handling of finances.

The discord led to the resignation of Valdez, who was considered the team's driving force.

Valdez later took the three women, Emata, Oracion and two other FPMEE members under his wing to continue the planned climb of Everest.

Sebastian and team leader Reggie Pablo took in the others and planned on their own to scale Everest. *(See box.)*

Coast Guard

Wenceslao, Dayondon and Belarmino are all members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), with the rank of Seawoman First, each receiving close to P14,000 a month.

Other PCG employees recall seeing them reporting to headquarters on mountain bikes and never wearing makeup.

"We want to show the country and the world what we Pinays can achieve not only with our strength but also with our teamwork," Dayondon told the INQUIRER in an interview two days before the team left for Nepal three months ago.

Dayondon, a native of Bukidnon, said she had never imagined that she would one day set her sights on standing on top of the world.

She climbed Mt. Apo, the Philippines' tallest, in 2004. But Everest? "I thought it would be impossible for me," she said.

Thus, she said, the chance to join the Everest expedition team came as "a blessing."

"If we will be able to reach the summit, it will not just be because of our physical strength," Dayondon said. "It will largely be because of our teamwork, our faith in God, our years of preparation, and the support of our families and our sponsors." *With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Priest's rival claims victory; Padaca rises in Isabela

From page A1

Panlilio, 53, said he considered it "improper" for Pineda to make the victory announcement.

Pineda announced her supposed win through her running mate, Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, in a press conference in the City of San Fernando.

Surrounded by 15 candidates of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), Guiao showed reporters what he claimed were official copies of election returns.

Pineda, he said, won by 10,280 votes over Panlilio, an independent candidate.

Guiao said the election returns, which covered "97 to 98 percent" of votes, tallied 198,107 votes for Pineda, 187,827 for Panlilio, and 176,962 for Lapid.

Guiao said he garnered 241,102 votes and won against Lapid's running mate, Paul Tristan Laus.

He said Kampi obtained the documents through Liberal Party provincial chair Francisco Gaddi, a Kampi ally. The LP, as a dominant political party, is allowed by the Commission on Elections to get copies of the ERs.

Guiao said the early announcement was made to thank Kampi supporters, to stop all speculations on the outcome of Monday's elections, and to end "inaccurate reporting in the media."

Asked by the INQUIRER who among journalists made supposed inaccurate reports, Guiao named television networks GMA 7 and ABS-CBN that "tended to create a trend" on who was winning through independent but unofficial counts.

Pineda did not attend the press conference because she was advised by Kampi leaders to take a rest instead, he said.

Lapid, 28, felt offended by the announcement.

"In fairness to the people of Pampanga, no parties should at this time come forward to claim victory," he said, speaking through his chief campaigner Fidel Arcenas. "Pineda is not the Comelec. She could cite figures but she is not the Comelec."

He said the contest was "still close to call."

Supporters of Panlilio organized a 6 p.m. Mass in front of the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center where the provincial canvassing began yesterday afternoon to appeal for "honest and just" canvassing.

One of his supporters, businessman Rene Romero, said the vigils could grow into protest rallies as expressions of indignation against election fraud and the supposed victory of Pineda, wife of alleged gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

PANLILIO

PADACA

ISABELA: Padaca, Dy claim victories

The camps of reelectionist Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca and her rival, former Gov. Benjamin Dy, have both claimed victory in the gubernatorial race in Isabela.

Padaca yesterday clarified reports that she was losing. In 2004, she foiled the reelection bid of Dy's brother, former Gov. Faustino Dy Jr.

Padaca warned of possible vote-shaving by her opponents to overhaul her slim lead in the latest unofficial count. She said her biggest concern was the lack of lawyers that would guard her votes in the official canvassing.

She noted that she was reported to be trailing in the third district where, she admitted, Dy made a strong showing.

According to her camp's own monitoring in 28 towns, Padaca was leading by about 34,000 votes.

Padaca was confident that Dy's expected lead in Cauayan City and other towns in the third district would be offset by her lead in other districts.

According to a partial and unofficial result from Namfrel yesterday, Padaca received 53,370 votes while Dy got 52,479. The figures came from 13 towns.

In the Comelec count that started on Tuesday night, Padaca received 29,347 votes while Dy got 22,686. The results, as of 9 a.m. yesterday, came from canvassed statements of votes in eight towns.

Dy said his victory would have been ensured if not for the alleged manipulation of votes done by the camp of Rep. Rodolfo Albano III, Padaca's ally in the first district.

Albano said he went to Metro Manila after Monday's elections and was recuperating from an illness. "So how can [Dy] claim that I am rigging votes in favor of Governor Padaca?" he asked.

NUEVA ECIJA: Josons in peril

The hold of the Joson clan on the top elective position in Nueva Ecija is in danger after partial and unofficial results from Namfrel and the PPCRV showed Vice Gov. Mariano Cristino Joson trailing Rep. Aurelio Umali in the gubernatorial race.

Results from eight towns and one city showed Umali receiving 117,734 votes and Joson getting 84,975. The results came from Aliaga, Zaragoza, Bongabon, Gabaldon, Laur, Sta. Rosa, Gen. Tinio and Peñaranda towns and Palayan City.

Joson belongs to the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane) and Kampi. Balane, the dominant political party in the province, was formed by the Joson patriarch, the late Gov. Eduardo Joson, in 1987. Mariano Cristino is the current chair of Balane.

Joson's running mate, Board Member Edward Thomas Joson, his nephew, was leading Jose "Popoy" Taruc, 97,297 votes to 82,488.

It was not also a good showing for outgoing Gov. Tomas Joson III, brother of Mariano Cristino and who is running for mayor of Cabanatuan City. He was trailing by more than 10,000 votes against Alvin Vergara, a cousin of outgoing Mayor Julius Cesar Vergara.

In the tabulation conducted by the city government, Tomas III received 33,610 votes while Vergara had 44,215.

Two other Josons—Eduardo Joson IV, who is running for representative of the third district, and former Gov. Eduardo Nonato Joson, who is running for representative of the first district—were trailing.

ILOCOS NORTE: Marcos magic at work

The so-called Marcos magic seems to be working for Board Member Michael Keon, who is leading the gubernatorial race against former Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas.

Based on the PPCRV count as of 11 a.m. yesterday, Keon was leading with 92,856 votes over Fariñas' 54,209. The results were taken in 16 towns where counting of votes have been completed.

Votes from Laoag City and six other towns, however, have only been counted partially. The city, with close to 60,000 registered voters, is considered the Fariñases' bailiwick.

Keon is the son of former Ilocos Norte Gov. Elizabeth Marcos-Keon, the younger sister of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Keon's cousin and outgoing Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is merely waiting for the votes in the second district to be canvassed before he can be proclaimed representative. He ran unopposed.

CAMARINES SUR: Dato rival concedes

The small town politician, who ran against President Macapagal-Arroyo's son, Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo, yesterday conceded defeat in the congressional race in the first district of Camarines Sur although the results of canvassing had yet to arrive at the Comelec office in Naga City.

Mayor Sabas Mabulo of San Fernando town, a candidate of the Liberal Party, said he had learned that running against a formidable opponent needed a much longer preparation time for the advocacy of politics of volunteerism to work.

Mabulo said he only won in Pasacao and his hometown. The first district has 10 towns and at least 180,000 registered voters.

"Despite massive vote-buying and deployment of the Army, we still exceeded the opponents expectation by giving me 15 percent of the total votes cast even though we had reached only 40 percent of the registered voters," he said.

Based on unofficial tallies of the Namfrel in 8,476 precincts as of 2:30 p.m. yesterday, Arroyo had 66,556 votes and Mabulo, 41,248.

Arroyo is the official candidate of Kampi.

In the three other districts, the President's allies were also leading in the Namfrel count.

Incumbent Rep. Felix Alfelor (Kampi) was leading in the fourth district with 23,434 votes. His rival, Diones Belza (Lakas-CMD) got only 5,439.

Based on Comelec results as of Wednesday noon, Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte (Kampi) garnered 16,511 votes in the second district, while his opponent, Sulpicio S. Roco Jr. (Aksyon Demokratiko) got only 8,863 votes in the towns of Bombon, Magarao, Camaligan and Gainza.

Rep. Luis Villafuerte's son, Gov. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (Lakas-CMD), earned 144,938 votes in the four towns of the second district. His opponent, Eduardo Pilapil (Kampi), garnered 55,737.

Incumbent Vice Gov. Salvio Fortuno (Lakas-CMD) was also leading with 105,404 votes, followed by Felipe Gerado Ortega (Kampi), with 58,078.

CEBU: Tommy Osmeña wins

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña got a fresh mandate for a third term after his strongest opponent, barangay chair Mary Ann de los Santos, conceded defeat on Tuesday.

"I have given Cebu City an alternative. So, I let democracy work in the city of Cebu. And the people have spoken. And I believe that they still want Mayor Osmeña to rule the city of Cebu," De los Santos said.

She said she would support projects that would redound to the benefit of the city.

Provincial Board Member Luigi Quisumbing (Lakas-CMD) is expected to topple Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz (Kampi) in the sixth district.

Former Gov. Vicente de la Serna, who also ran in the congressional race, claimed that Quisumbing would be declared the winner because of massive vote-buying. He alleged that the Quisumbing camp spent P500 to 1,000 per voter.

Both Quisumbing and Soon-Ruiz claimed victory. *Reports from Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon; Melvin Gascon, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon; Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

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ON EVE OF HR VOTE

Palace orders probe of killings, poll violence

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana

RESPONDING TO INTERNATIONAL CRITIcism, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the filing of at least 20 cases before the year is over against those responsible for extrajudicial and election-related killings.

The President issued the order on Tuesday after election observers from the European Commission and the United States expressed concern about the violence that marred the elections last Monday, according to Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo.

Saludo said the President ordered the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces and the Department of Justice to "harness their investigative and legal resources to curb the series of violent incidents related to the just-concluded midterm elections and unexplained killings" of militants and journalists.

These agencies will be consulting with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), "while utilizing technical assistance offered by the European Commission and other foreign entities," he said.

Ms Arroyo gave a similar deadline early last year, when she ordered authorities to file one case a week against suspects in the unexplained killings of militants and members of the media.

The Arroyo administration has been severely criticized by foreign governments and international institutions over the killings.

UN vote

Despite the Philippines' unglamorous human rights record, the Department of Foreign Affairs is confident that the country will be reelected to the 47-seat United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

"We will get it," DFA spokesperson Claro Cristobal told reporters, citing a report from the Philippine mission to the UN has reported that the country's bid for reelection to the UNHRC had the support of a number of UN member-states.

Cristobal said he was confident the government's efforts to address the issue of unsolved political killings would far outweigh the negative image generated by the issue.

He said the so-called Asian bloc in the UN was supporting the Philippines' reelection bid as well of those of India, Indonesia and Qatar.

"They are aware of what is happening in the country. Our case was even discussed before the Human Rights Council in one of its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland this year," he said.

The Philippines has been criticized worldwide, particularly by the United States and the European Union, for its worsening human rights record.

The UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, in a preliminary report to the UNHRC last March, accused the Philippine government of tolerating extra-judicial killings by the military.

The UN General Assembly is set to elect on Thursday new members to the Geneva-based UNHRC against a backdrop of strong opposition from civil society to the candidacies of alleged rights violators such as Belarus and Egypt.

At least 16 countries are vying for 14 council seats which are allocated on a regional geographical basis.

Rights record

Each candidate is evaluated based on criteria such as political rights and political freedoms, freedom of the press and human rights promotion at the UN.

The Philippines won a one-year term to the newly established council in May 2006.

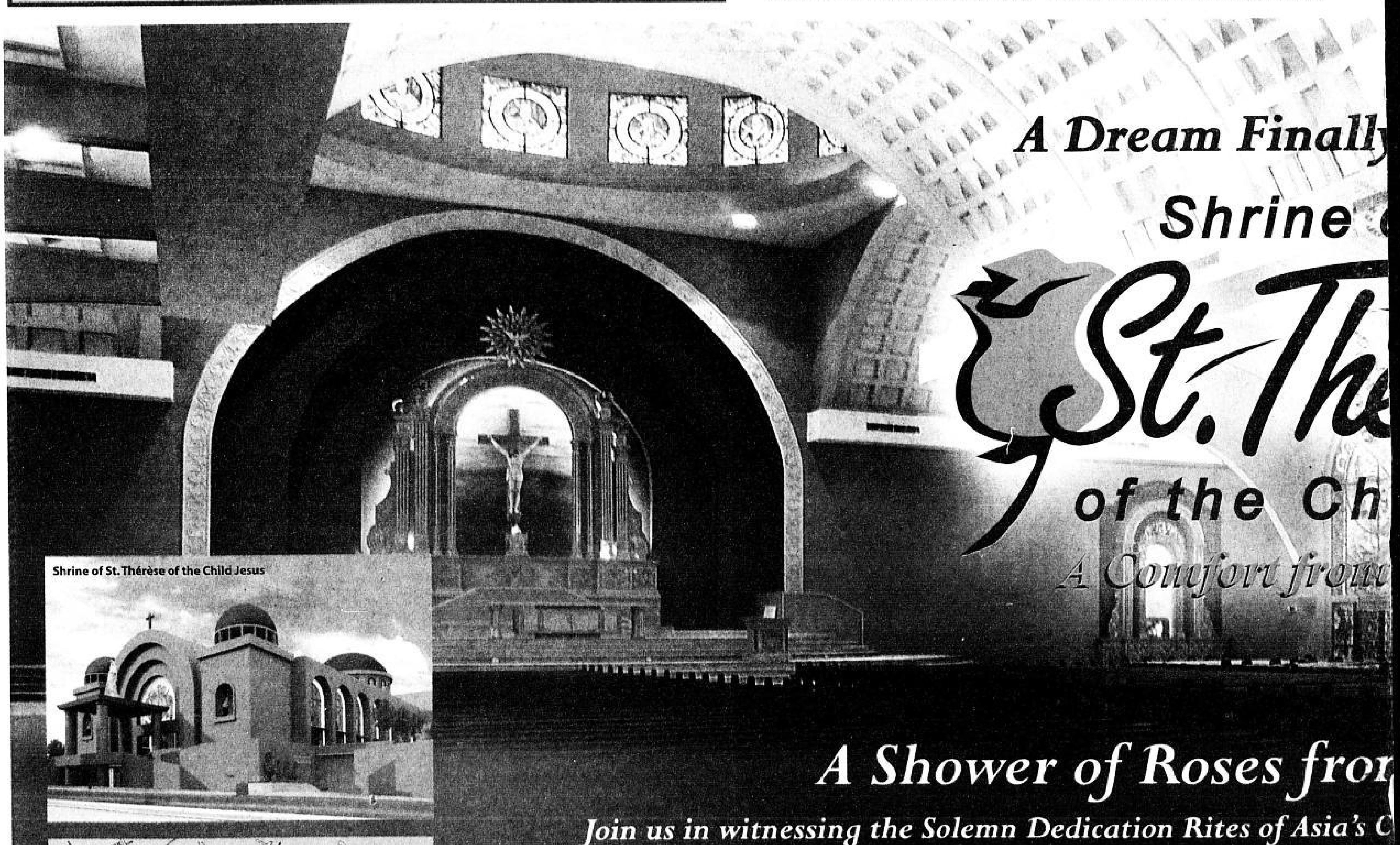
Membership is limited to two consecutive terms, and any council member may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.

The Council's 47 seats are distributed among the UN's regional groups as follows: 13 for Africa, 13 for Asia, six for Eastern Europe, eight for Latin America and the Caribbean, and seven for the Western European and Others Group.

The panel was created last year under an assembly resolution specifying that "members elected to the council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights" and will be subject to periodic review.

Elevated to the status of a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the council replaced the discredited 53-member Human Rights Commission, which was an independent body, as part of UN reforms.

The INQUIRER estimates the number of militants killed since Ms Arroyo assumed office in 2001 at 301. Other reports put the number of journalists killed since 2001 at 27. *With AFP*



A Shower of Roses fro

Join us in witnessing the Solemn Dedication Rites of Asia's C

Today, on the 82nd Canonization Anniversary of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, the Military Ordinariate of the Philippines (MOP) with Magnificat Ventures Corporation (MVC) enjoins the devotees and the Catholic faithful to the Solemn Dedication and Consecration Rites of the Shrine of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus.

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus grew up in a devout Catholic family. At fifteen, she entered the Carmelite Convent at Lisieux, France because she fervently wanted to serve God. In her childlike innocence, she spoke of the spiritual life as if it was just like plucking petals off a flower and strewing them before Jesus. "Little Flower" was a name she gave herself,

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CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE JUNKED

SC upholds dual citizenship

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS UPHELD the constitutionality of Republic Act 9225 or the country's dual citizenship law.

In its May 11 decision, the high tribunal dismissed a petition that questioned the constitutionality of the dual citizenship law and asserted that dual allegiance was harmful to the national interest.

The petition, filed by Hector Calilung of the Advocates and Adherents of Social Justice for School Teachers and Allied Workers against former Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, said dual allegiance must be dealt with by law as stated in the Constitution.

But the high court said the dual citizenship law, passed in 2003, did not deal with the matter of allegiance.

As it is, the purpose of the law in question is to restore the Philippine citizenship of Filipinos who became naturalized citizens of other countries.

"On its face, it does not recognize dual allegiance. By swearing to the supreme authority of the Republic, the person implicitly renounces his foreign citizenship," the ruling said.

It quoted Rep. Teodoro Locsin as stating in congressional deliberations that the problem of dual allegiance is transferred from the Philippines to the foreign country because the latest oath that the former Filipino would take is the one of allegiance to the Philippines.

"What happens to the other citizenship was not made a concern of Rep. Act No. 9225," the court said.

"Congress was given a mandate to draft a law that would set specific parameters of what really constitutes dual allegiance. Until this is done, it would be premature for the judicial department, including this Court, to rule on issues pertaining to dual allegiance," it said.

It added that it has to respect the legislative branch of government and practice judicial restrain in judging the former's acts.

"Moreover, in Estrada v. Sandiganbayan, we said that the courts must assume that the legislature is ever conscious of the borders and edges of its plenary powers, and pass laws with full knowledge of the facts and for the purpose of promoting what is right and advancing the welfare of the majority. Hence, in determining whether the acts of the legislature are in tune with the fundamental law, we must proceed with judicial restraint and act with caution and forbearance. The doctrine of separation of powers demands no less," it said.

The Bureau of Immigration under the Department of Justice implements the dual citizenship law.

Naia in a bind over liquids

By Tarra Quismundo

THE TOTAL BAN ON LIQUIDS, aerosols and gels in carry-on bags should have been lifted two months ago, but why is it still in place in Philippine airports?

Apparently, agencies supposed to enforce the amended regulation have yet to agree on which of them should provide the resealable plastic bags required to implement the measure downgraded by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which allowed 100 ml or less of these substances to be carried into passenger cabins.

Officials of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) and airlines operating in Manila failed to settle the matter of providing the required 20 cm by 20 cm transparent resealable plastic bags in their meeting last week.

Based on amended regulations the ICAO disseminated for enforcement in March, airport authorities around the world may allow passengers to bring liquids, aerosols and gels 100 ml or less in their carry-on bags, but containers must be placed in transparent bags during pre-flight security inspection.

It is this plastic problem that has been keeping the total ban in Philippine airports in place, strictly limiting the carriage of liquids, aerosols and gels in check-in luggage. Airports in the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom, Asia and Australia have already adopted the relaxed measure.

"It is out of the question for the government [to provide the plastic bags] because it will be a big reduction in our budget. We'd rather purchase equipment," said Miaa security chief retired Gen. Angel Atutubo.

He added that Miaa may not do the next best thing—provide the plastic bags for a fee—as government must not be engaged in such commercial enterprise.

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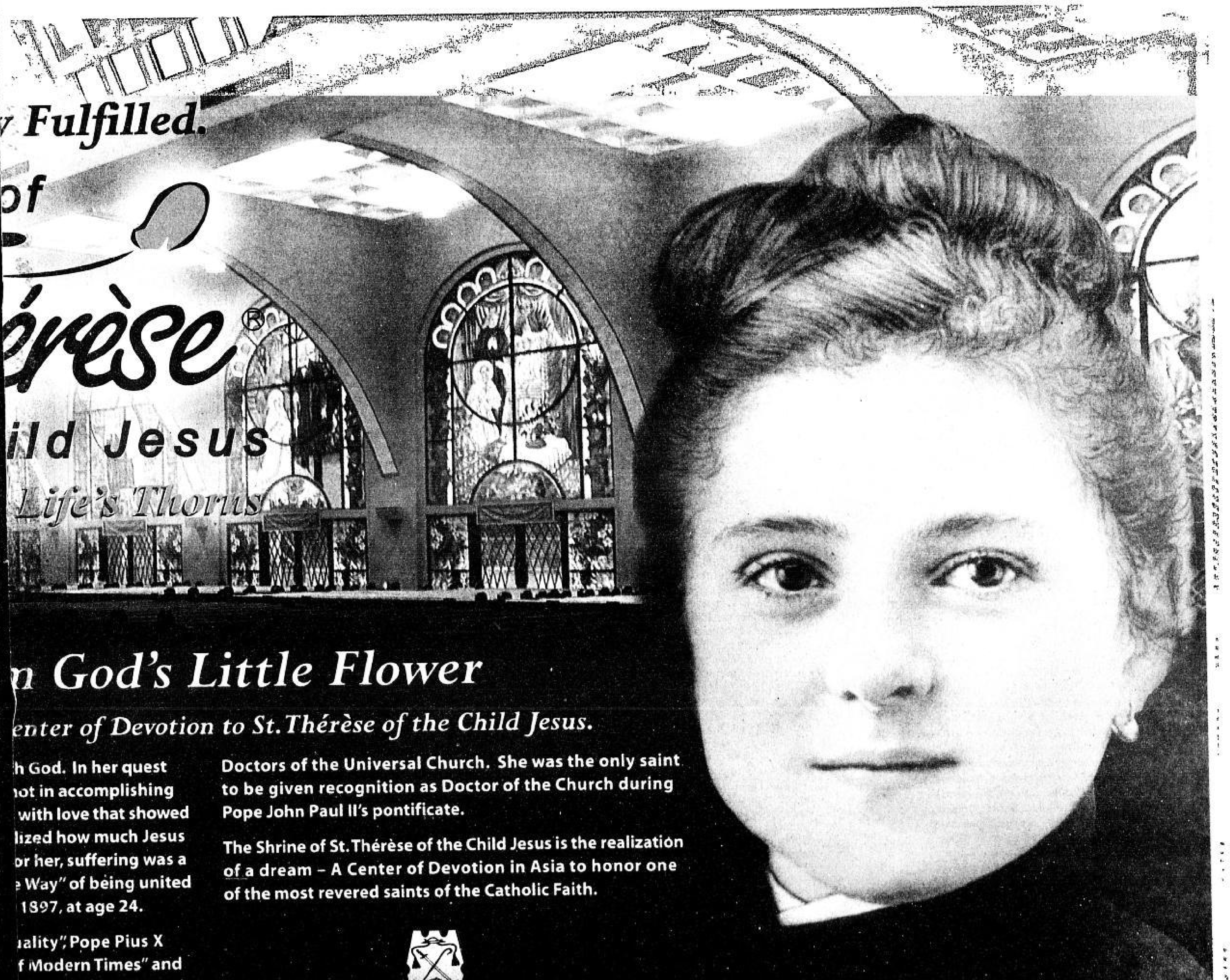

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MILITARY ORDINARIATE OF THE PHILIPPINES
St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus at age 15.

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OPINION

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Old refrain

EDITORIAL

ALL THE WHINING AND WARNING ABOUT ELECtion surveys and exit polls have the sound of an old familiar refrain. Everyone has heard it before: surveys and exit polls are nothing more than an attempt to condition the minds of the people to accept electoral results that either the pollsters or their sponsors want. That was Fernando Poe Jr.'s complaint about the surveys after the 2004 election, when he accused the media of "trending." That was also what Jose de Venecia said when the polls showed him trailing badly Joseph Estrada in the 1998 presidential election. Even Jaime Cardinal Sin then strongly advised Filipinos "not to be misled by exit poll results and unofficial sources" that showed Estrada winning. "While we should always protect the people's right to information," Sin said in a pastoral statement, "we must also caution the public against misinformation, which, as history has shown, has been employed by the forces of darkness to subvert the will of the people."

When all the votes had been counted, it was Sin, of course, who was shown to be misinformed not only about the outcome of the elections but also about the polls and the pollsters. The results of the preelection surveys and exit poll proved to be quite accurate, and Estrada went on to claim victory by the widest margin ever chalked up by a candidate for the highest office. And the Social Weather Stations, which did the exit poll and the surveys, went on to prove quite accurate in identifying winners in subsequent elections, including 2004 when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo won the presidency. In the same election, the SWS called correctly 11 of the 12 winners, after an exit poll. (It missed out on Alfredo Lim, who bolted into the winners' circle, nudging out former Sen. Robert Barbers, who had tied with two other candidates for 10th to 12th place in the exit poll.)

Now it's the administration's turn to cry foul and question the accuracy of surveys, the quick counts of various media organizations and in particular the exit poll done this time by Pulse Asia. The exit poll conducted on election day itself showed candidates of the Genuine Opposition taking the first six places out of the 12 Senate seats being contested, with the administration's Team Unity taking just four seats and the remaining two seats going to independent candidates. Although the media have constantly and clearly prefaced their announcements with the caveat that they are giving only "partial and unofficial returns," that is not good enough for the side that appears to be losing. Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio described the media quick counts as attempts at "mind-conditioning and trending." Prospero Pichay, an administration senatorial candidate, complained that the media were playing up the results in areas where the opposition was leading to condition the public to think the opposition would win the senatorial elections. Tonypet Albano, Team Unity deputy spokesperson, urged the public "not to be fooled by the unofficial and marginal returns." The party's spokesman, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, predicted that administration candidates will win six to eight seats. "Just wait till the Visayas and Mindanao votes start coming in," he said.

Durano was obviously referring to the "command votes" that the administration expects to be delivered by its local candidates, hundreds of whom either faced only token opposition or ran unopposed. But even that vaunted vote-delivery machine seems to have broken down in some places, like Iloilo, Leyte and Eastern Samar, where the promised 12-0 result for Team Unity seems to be vanishing.

To the opposition, Durano's statement carried an ominous ring. For it was in Mindanao where the opposition believed massive cheating happened in favor of Ms Arroyo in 2004, as the "Hello Garci" tapes tended to show. Thus, where the opposition once saw the polls and quick count as part of an elaborate plot to camouflage the cheating in 2004, now it considers it as some kind of shield against massive fraud. With the polls and the quick counts invariably indicating that the Genuine Opposition would win at least six seats, opposition leaders now believe it would be very difficult for the administration to reverse the trend by cheating.

The irony in this running debate, however, is that by questioning the credibility of surveys and quick counts, the administration is cutting off one argument on which it has anchored its defense of the President against charges she stole the presidency: The surveys showed she would win.

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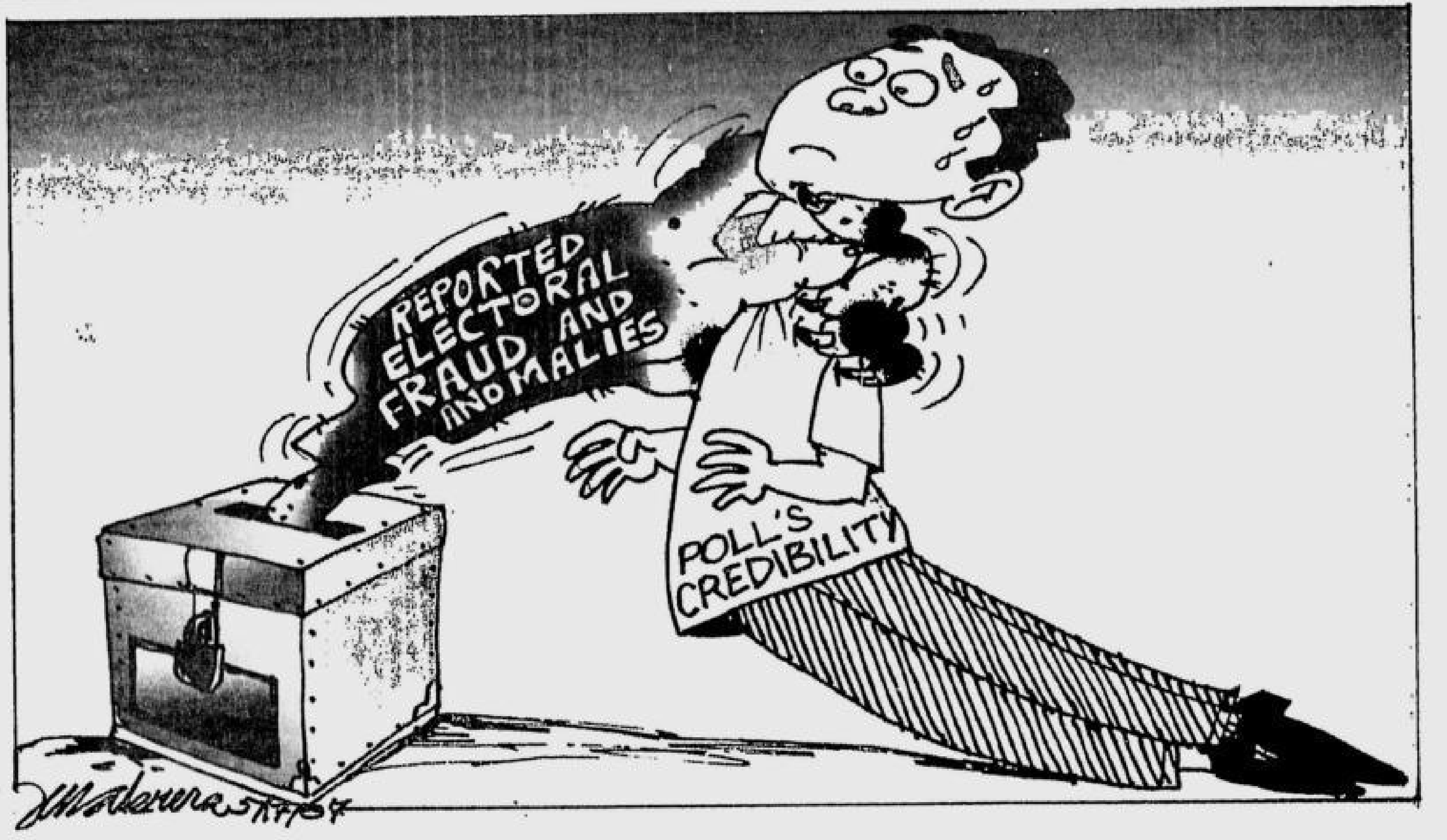
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Worm's-eye view

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

MABINI, BOHOL—THE LAST—AND ONLY—time this town barged into the headlines was two years back: 27 primary school students died after they munched cassava sweets accidentally laced with poison.

"We're grateful that our quiet Monday elections will keep us from the news," says Fr. Julian Asucan of St. Michael Church. He still winces at the memory of blessing 27 small coffins jammed into the barangay's ramshackle chapel.

Trouble unfortunately is news. On hearing of Napoleon's death in 1892, the Duke of Wellington muttered: "It is not an event, it is an item of news." And there have been 112 killings related to the polls so far.

Thus Lanao del Sur, Abra or Isabela grab broadcast prime time and above-the-fold coverage. They draw, like moths to a flame, well-meaning and often patently amateurish foreign observers.

But it's not news when voting proceeded quietly within six precincts here. "There were a few verbal spats between election rivals," said Father Asucan who oversaw church volunteer watchdogs. "But that was all."

That was all too in most of the precincts scattered throughout 81 provinces. That's also the judgment by one of the most sensitive of indicators: the pocketbook as reflected in the stock market:

"The peso broke into the P46 level against the dollar, for the first time, in six years as financial markets cheered the peaceful conduct of Monday's mid-term national elections," wrote INQUIRER's Doris Dumlao and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson. And Philippine Stock Exchange president Francis Lim added: "The surge in local stock prices is the immediate reward" for Monday's polls.

"All politics is local." Thus, movie director—and Boholano—Cesar Montano surged to the top of the list here. "Of course, I voted for Buboy," explained the parish cook, Lilia, as she served lunch. "He's Boholano, like me." The pastoral council president agreed.

Church watcher tallies show these candidates who, in descending order, got the nod of San Roque's 1,200-plus voters: Manuel Villar, Ralph Recto, Edgardo Angara, Miguel Zubiri, Joker Arroyo, Mike Defensor, Vicente Magsaysay, Loren Legarda, Benigno Aquino, Francis Escudero and Panfilo Lacson.

This unpretentious church tally is not a sophisticated exit poll where a portrait is sketched from answers of people, whose ink-stained forefingers indicate they'd just voted. Administration leaders, meanwhile, furiously strafed the results of an exit poll straight-jacketed within traditionally oppositionist Manila. "It does not reflect the whole country," presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio argued. So, is that a barely disguised "trending" operation?

The count here offers a worm's-eye view. And it is rooted in actual—not just projected—votes. They spotlight Bohol's TU machinery, headed by Gov. Rico Aumentado. A former Manila Times correspondent, Aumentado racked up an impressive record as governor. Bohol's excellent roads symbolize his hands-on governance, which critics grouse, borders on micro-management.

Despite Aumentado's record, and gaps in the opposition's roster of local candidates, Benigno Aquino, Francis Escudero and Panfilo Lacson squeaked into the winning circle. And so did Loren Legarda, defeated decisively here by Noli de Castro in the 2004 vice-presidential election.

INQUIRER's Visayas Bureau, meanwhile, pinpointed significance in church monitoring reports. "The Team Unity sweep that administration officials predicted is not happening in Visayas provinces considered strongholds of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies. Early returns, gathered by Church-based quick count centers in Cebu, Iloilo, Negros Oriental and Occidental, Capiz, Antique, Leyte and Eastern Samar showed that Genuine Opposition candidates dominate the senatorial race."

"It ain't over until the fat lady stands up and starts to sing." In primitive manual counts, like the Philippines, booby traps litter the road ahead. Scrutiny of election returns and proclamations could prove nasty. But it's not too early to count our little blessings now.

Like what? Like walloping former elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and boxer Manny Pacquiao in Bukidnon and General Santos. But their opponents, the Acostas and Antoninos, also should reflect: did voters feel they were the lesser evil?

The best mayor in the Philippines, Jesse Robredo, may win in Naga despite harassment. And in Pampanga, Fr. Ed Panlilio, leads *jueteng* operators and quarry wreckers. Win or lose, he proved—to swipe a Mark Twain line—that reports on the death of people power was an exaggeration. *Salamat po.*

We thank those who challenged entrenched dynasties, even if they lost, like the Ang Kapatiran trio. "Our fundamental premise was: Politics is not a means of livelihood … but a way of giving," Ang Kapatiran candidate Dr. Martin Bautista said. "If we have, even in a small, tentative way… awakened a hope that such reform is possible, then we have been fully recompensed for our efforts." What balance they had from campaign contributions "will be turned over to Gawad Kalinga in accordance with our conviction that politics is not an enterprise for profit."

The cheering of supporters should not fool the "victors." Democracy is always unfinished business. Incoming officials must act decisively on issues like the abduction of Jonas Burgos, revamp of the Comelec, poll computerization and radically alleviating poverty.

We cannot continue "drawing a knife through a bowl of marbles." Reforms must come willingly. Or upheaval will impose it on us.

* * *

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

Calm before the storm

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(Conclusion)

GMA HAS EVEN MORE COMPELLING REAsons than Marcos to stay on after her term.

First off, unlike Marcos who tried to find a law to do what he wanted and invented one when he couldn't, GMA has never been bothered by the law. The idea that the legal force of term limits will deter her presumes that legal force is a force that she feels, or fears. That overlooks the astounding fact that she is the longest-serving President of this country after 1986 without ever having been elected President. GMA became President in 2001 by the grace of God and the people, and in 2004 by the gall of Garci and Esperon.

Now, will someone who has ruled for 10 years without the nicety of being elected give up rule just because of the nicety of being restricted from staying on? Or will someone whose time never began feel a need to leave just because her time is up?

There's a stick to go with the carrot. The fate that has befallen Erap is the least of GMA's incentives for not wanting to lose power. There are a number of humongous crimes she can be indicted for. At the lowest rung is turning this country into the most corrupt in Asia. Erap has every reason to complain. He can always say: "Why am I in jail? I made us only second." At the highest rung are the killings. The specter of the class suit by the torture victims against Marcos cannot be lost on GMA. And at that, legal prosecution may be the least of her worries: Blood debts have a way of being paid for by blood.

No, it's not just the whip of ambition that will flail at her to keep power, it's the dogged figure of retribution on the rearview mirror, too.

From hindsight, the notion that Marcos "wouldn't dare" was really batty in that Marcos had in fact already dared again and again, long before he dared declare martial law. Not least, he had dared win a second term by mounting, as Salonga points out, the bloodiest election in Philippine history.

From foresight, the notion that GMA "wouldn't dare" is really batty in that GMA has in fact already dared again and again even before she dares take the final step. Not least she has dared prolong her term by helloing Garci, a crime that will go down in history alongside the Plaza Miranda bombing in scale of atrocity. The actual massacre of the vote is not lighter than the attempted massacre of the opposition, it is heavier. Between the two, the Plaza Miranda bombing better qualifies a "lapse of judgment."

But how to keep power? Here's the part, as I said, where my crystal ball gets fuzzy.

I myself think she will try to do it through a Charter change, this time moving heaven and hell because its beneficiary would not be Jose de Venecia but her. This time I suspect all the legions of government, the generals striding at the forefront, will be employed to ram it through.

That is what makes these elections a crucial one. The success of pushing Charter Change, or specifically a shift to a parliamentary system, rests on wresting control of Congress—not just the House of Representatives but the Senate as well. I think this will be the preferred option simply because martial law is far riskier. Unlike Marcos, GMA does not control the military. Or her control of it is purely transactional, as against Marcos' who added inspirational to the bargain: The generals were truly in awe of him and were loyal to him, such as people who crave power and wealth are capable of awe and loyalty. GMA's generals by contrast are in awe only of this country's heroes as printed on Central Bank mint paper.

But if by chance, or by this country waking up, Charter change should be stopped the way it was stopped last year, then I think martial law, or its equivalent, will not be beyond the contemplation of the current occupant of Malacañang.

One thing I am not fuzzy about. That is, whether the one or the other, whether we go in the direction of Charter change or (formal) martial law, we are going to see this country trampled by the hooves of iron-fisted rule over the next three years. Both projects require the extirpation of our freedoms along the way. It is happening even as we speak, the runaway killings blazing like a neon sign announcing it: We already have martial rule even without martial law.

GMA "out-Marcoses" even Marcos in one respect. I recall that one of the things that sparked the First Quarter Storm of 1970 was Edgar Jopson, then a student, demanding from Marcos that he put in writing that he would leave Malacañang after his second term. Marcos, who was a stickler for law, refused angrily and called his meeting with the NUSP to an end. I suspect that if a group of protesters made that same demand on GMA today, she would simply say: "Put that down in writing? In triplicate if you want."

There is one final thing that should put the notion of "She wouldn't dare!" to rest. That is the story of the scorpion and the frog. Everyone here, of course, knows the story, but it can do with some communal recollection and reflection.

A scorpion, the story goes, wanted to cross a river to the other side but didn't know how to swim. He spotted a frog along the bushes and pleaded with the frog to take him over on his back. The frog balked at the thought and said: "But you are a scorpion, you would sting me to death."

The scorpion replied: "Are you crazy? If I bite you then I will drown in the river."

Persuaded by that argument, the frog agreed.

Midway in the river, the scorpion bit the frog. "Why the hell did you do that?" the frog expostulated as the venom took hold of him. "Now we'll both die!"

"I know," the scorpion said as he sank into the water, "but, alas, I can't help it. Alas, it's in my nature to do so."

Well, alas, too, if it's our nature to be frogs that never learn.

Congress headed for same setup

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE WAY IT LOOKS, THE SAME SETUP IN THE 13th Congress will remain in the 14th Congress: the Senate will be in opposition hands (even if Team Unity wins five new seats), while the House of Representatives will still be dominated by the administration coalition. Our only hope is that the incoming Senate wouldn't be as obstructionist as the present, and that the gridlock between the two chambers wouldn't be as bad as it was in the past Congress. A most urgent legislation Congress ought to consider is the automation law, which was passed by the House but unacted, like many other bills, in the Senate.

* * *

I'm personally heartened by the victory of several personal friends:

- **In Pangasinan's 4th district, Speaker Jose de Venecia knocked out challenger Dagupan Mayor Benjie Lim, 75 percent-25 percent. JDV said it could reach 80 percent-20 percent in his favor. Doubtless, a strong factor that worked for the Speaker, aside from his track record of projects there, was this argument from Heherson Alvarez: the Pangasinenses already have a Speaker; why give up that edge?**
- **Reelectionist Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez trounced opponent Arturo Pacificador by 15,000 votes, despite the support of the Iglesia ni Cristo for the latter. When INC announced its choice of Pacificador, a good number of its members rebelled against their ministers and voted for Perez. The INC's stand frightened some people who decided to flood the province with pictures of Antique's hero, the late Gov. Evelio Javier in a pool of blood after he was murdered in February 1986 by goons suspected to be followers of Pacificador. The photos carried the caption, "Never Again." The episode in Antique is a good lesson for the INC: it should choose whom it should back up; why did it support a suspected murder mastermind? In the same province, Rep. Exequiel Javier, Evelio's brother, won over Robert Delfin by a small margin.**
- **In Santiago City, Isabela, reelectionist Mayor Amy Navarro won in a three-cornered fight against her Vice Mayor Armando Tan and former Mayor Pempe Miranda. Reports say she won despite efforts by Tan and his five brothers to go into massive vote-buying and herd people into their warehouses and resorts in the guise of getting them into election seminars. In Isabela's 4th District, lawyer Gigi Aggabao of UNO, who also supported Team Unity, trounced Rep. Anthony Miranda of Kampi. Aggabao and Isabela leader Heherson Alvarez delivered an 8-4 vote for TU. On the other hand, in the hometown of the Albanos, the family of TU's deputy spokesperson, Tonypet Albano, it was 11-0 in TU's favor. It's sad, though, that Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca is losing to Ben Dy.**
- **Secretary Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan won as governor in Bulacan, regaining his post-Edsa post, while reelectionist Rep. Maurice Domogan won over Councilor Joe Molintas in Baguio.**

* * *

Show of strength:

- Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo's ticket swept the various posts there and delivered 11-0 for GO, leaving only one slot for TU Bicolano candidate Joker Arroyo. The Comelec's move on election eve to disqualify Robredo only served to strengthen his hand.
- The administration banked on the command votes of certain "controlled" areas, to cut down GO's strength; but this is being assessed in view of initial returns showing TU's inability to gain the majority. To be sure, three municipalities in Eastern Samar voted 12-0 in TU's favor, and reports say some ARMM municipalities did the same, while parts of Leyte delivered 10-2 for TU. But on the whole, even TU strategists concede that the senatorial and local elections shouldn't be held together, as local candidates normally look after themselves first, so national candidates can't depend on them.
- Many were surprised at the strong showing of GO candidate Antonio Trillanes in the Senate race. Pundits ascribe this to his strong media exposure or as a protest vote against the establishment. Others noted the continuing fascination of some people with rebel figures (Gregorio Honasan, too). What's sad is that those who voted for them didn't think of the damage they did to the economy. This shows an urgent need for a continuing voter education program to help people mature politically. Only in this country would you see those rebelling against the political system being elected to that very system!
- Much has been said about the enormous expenses incurred by many senatorial candidates in the recent election, and questions have been raised about how they could recover these in a job paying P35,000 a month. A lot of the expenses went into tri-media ads as well as transportation expenses. Recently, for instance, an opposition senatorial candidate hired 17 helicopters from a private company, for deployment in various areas in Monday's elections. That cost quite a lot.

* * *

Barangay Forbes Park Chair Jose Concepcion Jr., who stepped down from chairing Namfrel owing to his current post, made sure that voters of the exclusive Makati villages of Forbes, Dasmariñas, Urdaneta, Magallanes, Bel-Air and San Lorenzo were equipped with the necessary election paraphernalia. These included the voter information sheet which indicated the voters' precinct numbers and the list of candidates for all posts. His idea was, as he put it, to give a sense of what barangay empowerment is all about.

But despite this preparation, only 45 percent of the voters in these rich villages showed up at the polls. Most of them were house helpers, drivers and gardeners, the majority of whom voted for the opposition candidates. The low turnout in these villages reflected the low turnout in the National Capital Region—a fact that pleased the administration coalition, as it will need less votes from the provinces to cover for the NCR's opposition votes.

A teacher, a sheltering tree

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IT WAS HARD KEEPING TRACK OF THE BODY count or the exact number of casualties during the campaign period and the election day itself. The INQUIRER put at 147 the death toll since the election campaign began on Jan. 14, the Philippine National Police total is 143.

I know the number stands for individual lives with faces and names, and with a network of families, friends and colleagues grieving for them. But sometimes the tally and the list of names just seem to numb feelings because they are just numbers to those of us who do not know the victims personally. This is not to say they do not matter.

One case suddenly stood out of the rest though. It was the death of a teacher. She died with a poll watcher, their bodies found in a toilet where they had taken refuge after gunmen wearing bonnets set the schoolhouse ablaze.

Why should a teacher die this way?

The name of the high school teacher is Nellie Banaag and the local poll watcher is Leticia Ramos. Their names happen to be familiar Filipino names. They are Everyteacher, Everypollwatcher. Banaag is a common family name in Batangas and there must be thousands of Leticia Ramoses in the Philippines, two former diplomats among them.

Several years ago, a teacher, Filomena Tatlonghari, who tried to protect the ballot, was also killed in Batangas. A school building is now named after her. I remember getting a call from a nun in Batangas and getting sketchy details on what happened. Tatlonghari's name got into the news but she was only one of many. When the frenzy died down, she emerged as special. She was a teacher.

Now another teacher is killed and I feel a knife stabbing my heart. The way she and the pollwatcher died was horrible. Those who killed them were without mercy, without conscience and I am tempted to say they deserve the same or even worse fate. But no, no one, not even the most loathsome of human beings deserves to die that way. That is, to be trapped, suffocated and burned in a violent rampage that was the handiwork of pitiless men. What did a teacher do to deserve this?

Two weeks ago, the media world celebrated World Press Freedom Day and remembered those who died in the line of duty—88 Filipino journalists since 1986, the year we were supposed to have regained our lost freedoms. Journalists being felled has become commonplace.

Nowadays, getting killed or murdered seems to be part of a journalist's job description. But not a teacher's. Journalists are out there, roaming like lone wolves so to speak, with no one to look after them or watch their backs for them while they challenge fate and demigods. We are supposed to live dangerously.

A teacher roams too, but with her mind, her heart. She takes her young students to worlds they never knew before. The physical dangers are supposed to be almost nil as long as they are in the confines of their classrooms. Alas, not anymore if you go by what have happened in US campuses, the massacre in Virginia Tech and Columbine High among them, which were the handiwork of students with diseased minds, spawned by a problematic society and genes gone awry because of it.

But a Filipino teacher watching at the polls, making sure that the conduct of the elections is peaceful, is not supposed to be in the crosshairs of a gun. She has no intention to grab power. In the case of Banaag, she was just doing her job. She even ran and hid to get out of harm's way.

A photo shows Banaag's young son, Galileo Jr., holding his beautiful mother's photo. What does one say to this child now? That his mother is a hero? What would that mean to one who needs his mother more than the honors that would be heaped on her? And what does one say to Banaag's husband? What does one say to her family, her friends and, of course, her students?

When a teacher is killed, I imagine a huge sheltering tree being felled. It comes down with a monumental thud, shaking the forest ground and making the other trees sway and tremble. So many living things are orphaned by the falling of one huge tree. The birds, insects, animals and plants that thrive on it, even the village beyond is affected by one tree's falling.

A teacher is like a tree. Imagine the hundreds, even thousands, of students who will pass through her and learn from her, who will call her name and remember it the rest of their lives. There are teachers we remember so vividly and who remain part of the history of our souls.

And there are evil men who deprive a generation of learners from knowing one teacher who might have changed their lives, influenced their thinking or inspired them to be the best they could be. Because they burned the schoolhouse in Barangay Pinagbayanan in Taysan, Batangas.

But who were those men? Who sent them? They came before the break of dawn, at 3:20 a.m., when bodies were tired and sleep would have been the better option for those teachers who had spent a whole day making sure that voters exercised their rights. Evil came hooded and armed, snatched ballot boxes and poured gasoline on them and set them ablaze.

What was this supposed to accomplish?

Classes will open in a couple of weeks and there will be no more Mrs. Banaag for the students to greet, for her fellow teachers to spend pleasant moments with. Oh, if only she had stayed home, defied her superiors and refused to do her duty, she would still be alive. But no, she went out there, like many teachers like her, to quietly fulfill a duty.

She will not be forgotten.

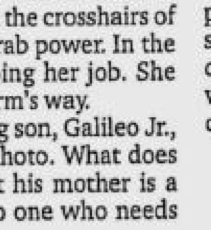
* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

The verdict

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE, A VOTE IS A "division of the house," and since January, the country has been basically conducting a gigantic division. Everyone, from the candidates to the voters, has had to take sides—and every question has three sides: for, against, and abstain. Last Monday, the voters did their part, voting for or against the candidates. And since Tuesday, the political operators have been busy figuring out which verdicts at the polls are so massive they can't be altered. Those verdicts they might as well leave alone. But as for the verdicts that can still be tinkered with, it's now open season for them to produce results different from reality.

It's really a problem of stages. The counting of votes was done simultaneously for national and local positions. By now, most local races have been announced, though the formal proclamation of winners might take a little more time. There are exceptions, of course. As I was writing this, a report came: canvassing has been stopped in Guagua, Porac, Apalit, Lubao, Floridablanca, Candaba and Arayat, which can only mean Fr. Ed Panlilio's votes are in peril.

The national votes, however—which we can presume were fairly counted up to the precinct level—are being processed further: on the municipal, then provincial, and finally national, levels. There's a saying that you don't want to see how a sausage is made; you don't want to see how the votes are processed after the precinct count. And the political operators don't want anyone to see the sausage-making process, either. *Dagdag-bawas* is like adulterating meat products: extenders, offal and so forth make for an unappetizing mix. If you let the public watch sausage-making, a public health alarm could ensue.

The Heckle and Jeckle of the Palace, Tonypet Albano and Romulo Macalintal, had to go out and try to convince the public of an alternate reality. The media counts, they said, were biased in favor of Metro Manila, which is traditionally pro-opposition.

But the AMA and STI volunteers were quick to take exception to this; and Namfrel for its part said the media counts weren't very different from their own figures, which they had sourced from Ilocos Norte, La Union, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Kalinga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Batangas, Laguna, Marinduque, Quezon, Rizal, Albay and Catanduanes in Luzon; Iloilo, Negros Oriental, Leyte, Samar and Southern Leyte in the Visayas; and Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, North and South Cotabato, Maguindanao, Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur in Mindanao.

Heckle and Jeckle then tried to head off the impact of Pulse Asia's national exit poll, pointing to the National Capital Region results as, again, indicative of Metro Manila's anti-administration sympathies. "What about Cebu?" Tonypet asked. What about Cebu, indeed? I asked a media colleague there and his reply was, "of those I've heard in radio or submitted from the field, I'm getting the impression many opposition candidates are doing well, particularly Chiz." That was Tuesday afternoon; but as the INQUIRER reported yesterday, Cebu, Iloilo, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Leyte and Eastern Samar had opposition votes remarkable enough to suggest Visayas voters weren't about to be ordered around. And from Davao came news that Mayor Rodrigo Duterte broke ranks with Prospero Nograles, which might affect the "deliverables" in his area.

Since 2005, our country has been divided, with every means to resolve that division ending up being foiled. Even last Monday's exercise, we all too quickly forget, almost didn't happen. If we accept the strengthening of the peso and the stock market as signs of confidence in the country, the boost only goes to show how useful elections are. We were all given the opportunity (except for the disenfranchised, of whom there were, sadly, many; the unable to register, particularly heavy among the youth; and the unconcerned here and abroad) to peacefully express our opinions by means of the ballot. The Senate race, for one, will serve to show where public opinion really lies.

The House, too, though on the whole a captive chamber, also had its fair share of interesting fights, from Garci to Pacquiao, to Dato and Mikey Arroyo; as did several gubernatorial races, starting with Pampanga. Whoever comes out the winner in these races can claim something no official has been able to claim since 2004: a mandate. And we can only hope that, on the whole, most mandates are accepted by the constituents who voted, if not by the losing candidates themselves.

The question remains whether a combination of media scrutiny (local and foreign) and public vigilance (from foreign observers to poll watchers and quick-count volunteers) will be enough to thwart the efforts of electoral manipulators. It seems, for now, that all the energy and resources used up in the Charter change movement of last year, plus the cannibalizing of Lakas by Kampi, and the behind-the-scenes bickering within the administration (not to mention the crucial absence of the President's husband from the "scene" at crunch time), took its toll on the administration's ability to roll out its machinery and the "command vote."

But even if these factors hold true, a crucial test remains. Who will render judgment on the elections? Who will determine whether, on the whole, they were credible or not? For a time, I feared that the institutions we tend to rely on to do that—the Catholic hierarchy, civil society, watchdog groups like PPCRV and Namfrel—might not be up to the job. Maybe, just maybe, they will be

Precious vote

YOUNG BLOOD

Mark Anthony S. Goroy

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY LUCK HAS RUN OUT. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY university life, I have flunked a subject. Fluid Mechanics should have been a cinch, given the other tougher subjects I was able to pass during my five years in the university. But taking the subject lightly proved too costly for me. Not only did it blemish my transcript, it was also a blow to my ego since most students get grades of 1 in the subject with minimal effort.

Enrolling in the summer class was the obvious remedy. However, I already had given my word that I would volunteer in a social outreach program in Davao during the summer vacation. I just hoped I made the right choice to honor my commitment.

It was the first time I stayed in a far-flung barangay of Davao City. The place is a typical barrio where farm animals roam freely and houses are built far apart. I was with a group of three teachers and 13 college students who stayed there for two weeks. Our task involved conducting academic tutorials, holding leadership seminars for the youth, assisting a medical mission, organizing a sports fest and laying a 650-meter pipe from the water source to the barangay hall.

We thought that our main objective of laying pipes would be "as easy as laying eggs," as one student volunteer had joked. But we city dwellers were dead wrong. Digging proved to be an arduous task especially since most of us were doing it for the first time and many of us didn't even know how to handle a spade. The scorching summer heat aggravated the situation. It was so hot that a mere ice candy tasted as delicious as a Roman gelato.

In digging the soil, we came to know not only the nature of manual work but also the difficulty encountered by people who construct roads or lay down water pipes or wait on us while we eat or those who try to keep our streets clean, etc. Doing their kind of work, I learned to appreciate them more. It made me resolve to be patient when I can't have my way with them. It made me realize that they are not supermen who can do anything we want them to do.

We got to know the members of the families we were helping. One was Mang Edwin who has three children with his wife of 12 years. They live in a house that is just big enough for an SUV to fit in.

Their apparent poverty didn't keep them from sharing their joy when we visited them. From their hospitality and engaging stories, we got the impression that they feel more fulfilled than other well-off families who live empty, materialistic lives. Their only wish is that their children will be able to finish their education and grow up as upright citizens.

Idealism rushed through my veins while I was conversing with Mang Edwin and his family. I wished I could do more than lay pipes for their barangay. I felt helpless. I could do little more than cheer them up for a few minutes of the day. But my encounter with them made me more grateful for the things I have and inspired me to think of ways I could help them.

After reflecting on the situation, I realized that there was something I could do to help alleviate their condition: I could do it by voting prudently. In our society where most politicians become lords instead of public servants once they get elected, the poor are the most powerless. Their requests usually fall on deaf ears. It is therefore every citizen's responsibility to elect someone who will take up the causes of the poor.

In one conference that I attended, a former governor revealed that he had once been offered at least a million-peso every month simply because of his position. The proposition was very tempting but he said he never accepted the offer.

I can't imagine too many of our government officials rejecting similar offers. No wonder, many of them think every government post is worth dying for despite the meager salary it brings.

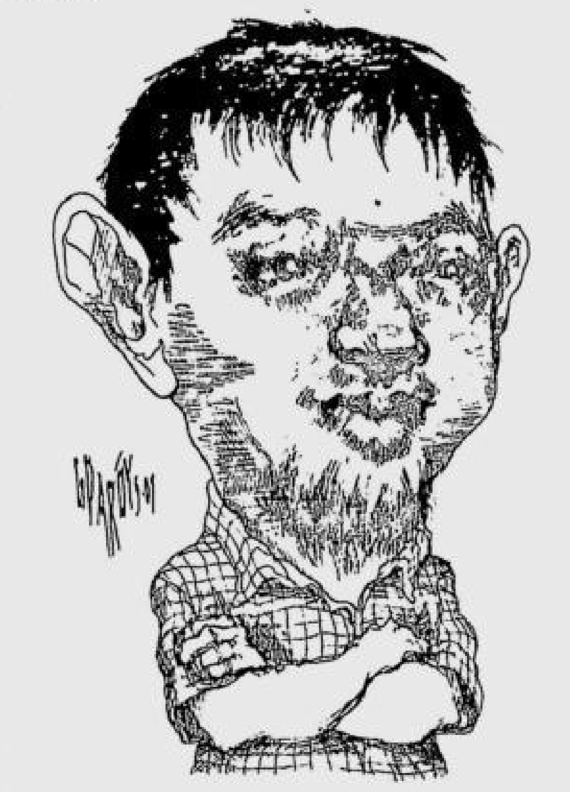
There is only one characteristic that I look for in a candidate for public office: his willingness to sacrifice. Latin honors, professional competence and immense popularity are of no use in public service if an official will pursue his own personal interests. I would rather have someone who is willing to make enemies rather than make compromises that do not promote the public interest. The candidates who are worthy of support are those who have the fortitude to pursue the common good even if it means inconvenience, struggle or even sacrifices on their part and who work for the public interest and not their personal glory.

We volunteered to help Mang Edwin's barangay but in the end we were the ones who benefited most. Not only were we offered after a hard day's work the best coconut I have ever tasted, but our stay with the rural folks also taught us things we could have not learned inside a classroom or through mere observation alone. The experience changed my perspective on life and the way we choose our leaders. I used to think that my one vote would be too insignificant to have an effect on the outcome of the election and that it didn't matter who won since their action or lack of it would not affect my life. But now, I consider my one vote precious for it could help provide a glimmer of hope to people like Mang Edwin.

I believe I made the right choice in volunteering for community work in Mang Edwin's barangay. And I hope every voter will choose his candidates like I do in every election.

Mark Anthony S. Goroy, 22, is a fifth year BS Industrial Engineering student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

IN THE NEWS



Jonas Burgos

Slow and late response from CSC

I WRITE IN REBUKE OF THE BUreaucracy in the Civil Service Commission and the people who lead it. Until recently, I was a civil servant, proud to do my part in government service. But to my dismay, I just discovered that this government agency, which is supposed to promote professionalism and uphold the dignity of civil servants like me, does not live up to its ideals. Its much vaunted slogan, "Mamamayan Muna, Hindi Mamaya Na" is a lie.

When I reached retirement age, I requested the CSC that my service as Director I of the Parole and Probation Administration in the Department of Justice be extended up to the maximum allowable one-year term. I was initially granted a six-month extension but my subsequent request for additional six months to complete the one-year term was denied.

I do not write out of spite because my request for service extension was denied. I respect the commissions' decision to deny my request. What I am calling attention to is the excruciatingly long wait I had to go through before the commission handed down its decision. Meanwhile, I was given the runaround, which kept me hoping. I waited for eight long months and it was only after then that I knew with finality that my request for a six-month extension had been denied.

For a public servant about to retire and unsure about the future, it was a cruel ordeal. I hope the CSC, particularly those at its helm, realizes this.

I am not one used to stirring water or rocking the boat, but I cannot be at peace if I choose to keep quiet, instead of speaking out for what is right. Will the CSC then please examine its moral authority to exhort all public servants in the land to serve with expediency to the best of their ability? Are not the public servants themselves deserving of the same kind of expedient, efficient service from the CSC?

It is my hope that no one else may again be disillusioned with our bastion of professionalism, the Civil Service Commission.

—CARMELITA R. DIAZ,
Ceso 6, 52 N. Zamora St.,
SFDM, Quezon City

Alternative cars and fuels used in motorcade

FIRST OF ALL, WE WOULD LIKE to thank Maria Paz Luna for her letter "When motorcades become a joke." (INQUIRER, 4/19/07) It was a clear manifestation of her concern for the environment.

But we would like to clarify that the "Motorcade For Clean Air Activity," held last April 10, was part of the Inhale Makati Project spearheaded by the Department of Environmental Services of Makati City, through the Clean Cities Makati Coalition (CCMC), in partnership with the US-DOE, USAID-SEDP,

Philippine DOE, DOH, DepEd Makati, Makati Environmental Foundation, Ayala Foundation, Caltex, Eastern Petroleum, Tartarini, Hyundai, Ford, non-government organizations and the transport sector.

Primarily, it was meant to showcase the available technologies, alternative vehicles and fuels for the eradication of air pollution, particularly the reduction of carbon dioxide and all other environmental toxins brought about by motor vehicle emissions. May we stress that the participants used alternative vehicles and fuels such as bio-diesel, ethanol, LPG and CNG in the motorcade. The one minute engine shut-off was to raise the level of public concern over our deteriorating air quality.

We feel that we achieved our objective in calling the attention of the people to use alternative fuels as one of the remedies to our worsening air pollution.

The need to improve the condition of our fast deteriorating environment should be the first and foremost concern of everyone. Needless to say, the participation of all sectors in our society is inevitable.

Should anyone wish to be our environment partner or would like to make suggestions and proposals, he may write to us at the Department of Environmental Services, Old Makati City Hall, Barangay Poblacion, Makati City with Tel. No. 895-4991.

Again, let us work for our environment.

—DANILO V. VILLAS,
department head 2,
Department of Environmental
Services, Makati City

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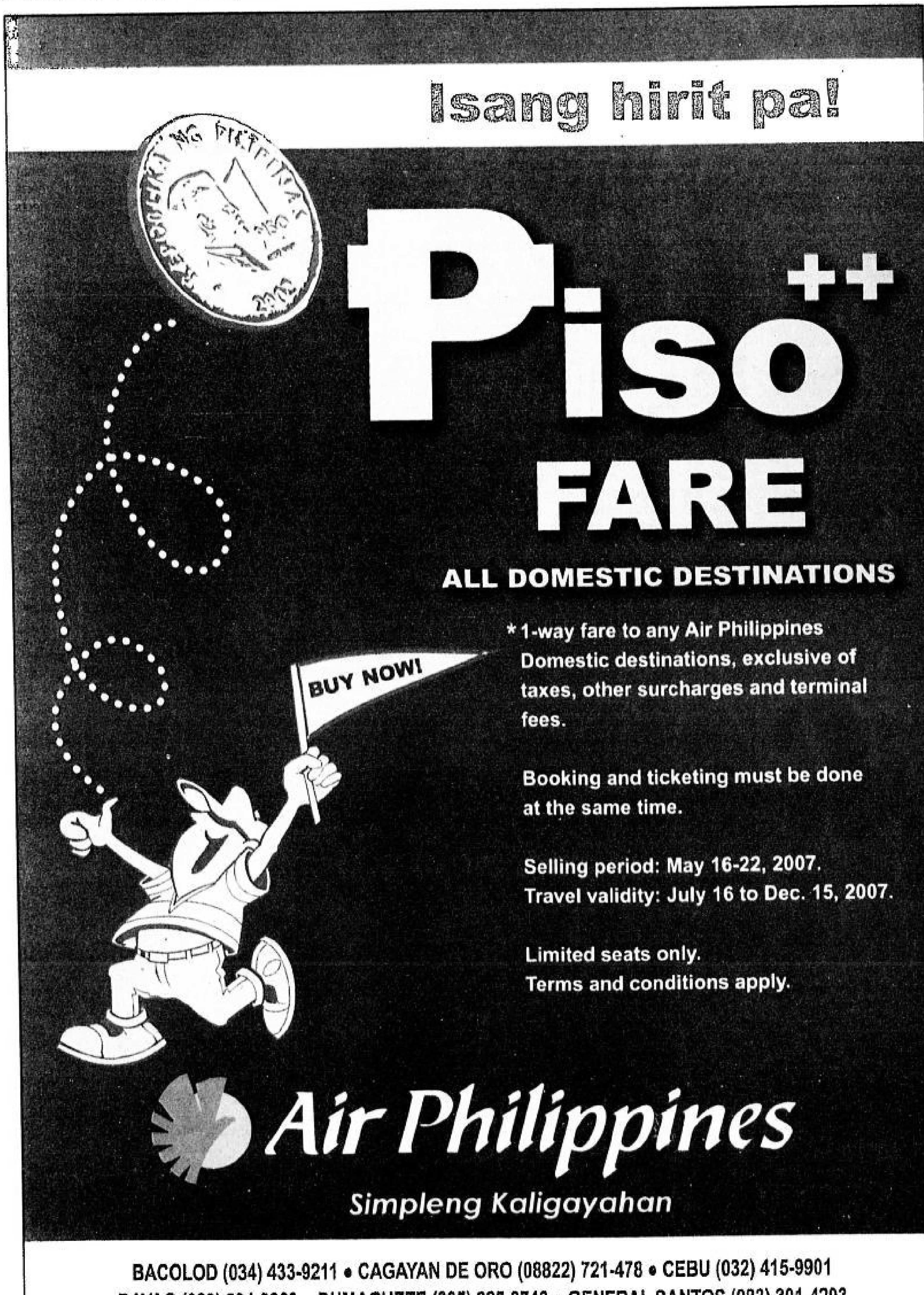
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SC chief wrong on terrorism

THE INQUIRER'S APRIL 25 EDItorial said: "It's a sign of a lack of credible leadership in this country that officials ... like Chief Justice Puno has been making strong statements lately ... (saying that war on terrorism is a 'mindless and knee-jerk' thing) .... Most interesting of all is seeing how a generally reactive institution has become proactive out of necessity."

I think you are overextending the meaning of "proactive." For how can a Chief Justice become an expert on counter-terrorism overnight, start judging actions beyond his legal competence and still render constructive advice on the war on terrorism? At best, his opinion on such field of concern will be just as good or as bad as a security guard manning a busy lobby entrance.

I would even grudgingly give a lowly security guard a higher rank (because of his professional training) than a lawyer or a judge in terms of expertise on terrorism.

There are still a lot of issues the Court must face: the unresolved cases involving corrupt judges, a huge backlog, the snail-paced justice system and the poor image of the judiciary in our country. These are the things that cry out to the heavens for attention, let alone "proactive" solutions.

The people are tired of incompetence in our political system which includes the judiciary, legislative and executive branches. But please stop giving importance to interloping comments that don't benefit our current security situation and, in the process, sacrifice the meaning of "proactive."

—IKE ESLAO,
ikeeslao@yahoo.com

A golden opportunity for greatness

OUR WISE MEN OF NOT TOO long ago inserted into our Constitution a provision limiting the president to one six-year term with no reelection, the obvious intent being to make the nation's chief executive apolitical or nonpartisan in his/her actions.

As vice president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said that if she became president, she would eliminate patronage and personality cult, encourage transparency, reduce government deficit, streamline government bureaucracy, eliminate poverty in 10 years and increase consultation with (not between) business and labor.

As vice president, were these initiatives not part of her job description? If she did advance any of the initiatives, did anybody resist her?

Reports indicated that as vice president about to become president, GMA would lead her united opposition in formulating a national- and party-based agenda.

More than 100 years ago, Dr. Jose Rizal promoted the La Liga Filipina to unite all elements of the population and get them to participate in identifying our problems, as well as to formulate and implement their solutions.

Why does GMA need a majority of legislators on her side? The obvious reason is: to obviate any further attempts to impeach her. If the evidence is strong against her, no majority can help her, as Erap found out for himself. Otherwise, what is there to worry about?

The challenge is for GMA to be great, to be President of all the people. President Quezon said that loyalty to party ends where loyalty to country begins. The concern should be to field the best qualified candidates and let the people freely choose them based on their individual merits, without any pressure from the administration which traditionally use illegally its huge arsenal of power and money. The armed forces should be deployed not only to forestall violence, but to ensure honest and free elections.

The President of all the people should do everything in her power to close down the lawmakers' gold mine: the pork barrel, their major incentive to seek election—and reelection—by whatever means.

How about unexplained wealth? Will the political, business, social and other elites be immune to prosecution, while those who displease the powers-that-be are not? We do not have enough jails to accommodate all malefactors, but amnesty may be given to those who surrender half of their unexplained assets to a common fund, say, for combating poverty in all aspects—food, housing, health care, sanitation, education, moral and spiritual guidance, jobs, etc. The fund may be administered by a responsible group of people from the public and private sectors. The group may be Cabinet level or an independent agency that is free from political influence.

Re the tampering with election returns, while tens of thousands of volunteer poll watchers can minimize the problem, the best deterrent would still be the enforcement of stiff penalties prescribed by law.

—TIERRY F. GARCIA, M.D.,
Sorsogon City

Keep the young blind to realities?

IN HER LETTER, "WHY IS COlumnist De Quiros still in the Philippines?" (INQUIRER, 4/19/07), Elizabeth Benning asked, "Does De Quiros intend to make everybody feel ashamed of being born a Filipino?"

I am taking the liberty of answering her question: Conrado de Quiros is still here in the Philippines because he, as the columnist who writes the way he does, is playing an important role. That is to enrage, shame and wake us Filipinos out of the apathy that blinds us to our country's ills and misfortunes, which we can and must help address. For this, I consider De Quiros one of our true patriots.

Benning expressed concern that De Quiros' column, "13 signs" (INQUIRER, 4/11/07), may affect her kids negatively. She said that it "could bring to naught our efforts to teach them to be at least good, if not proud, citizens."

I wonder if she thinks it wise to let children grow up detached from the realities happening in this world which we all know is very imperfect. To what extent can parents protect their children from life's sad truths? Are we not setting them up for a bigger disappointment by shielding them from knowing things that they could easily get exposed to in this day and age? And how can a young person learn to help correct the ills of society if he is kept ignorant of and unprepared to deal with its evils and flaws?

There's a reminder we always see on television, "Parental Guidance." I think parents should be there to support and guide their children along the right values, but they should not be overly protective. Children should be allowed to mature, also by being made aware of life's harsh realities, and made to see the good as against the bad; by being trusted enough so they will know how to make sensible decisions.

I congratulate Benning for having children who read. But if she really insists on protecting them from knowing about unpleasant things in the Philippines, then it is not only De Quiros' columns or the INQUIRER that she should keep away from them, but all media; and for that matter, everything else that they may see around them once they step out of the sanctuary of their home.

—CLAUDE LUCAS C.
DESPABILADERAS,
claudelucas2003@yahoo.com

Friendly laws needed to keep alive Philippine health care industry

SENATE BILL 607 AND HOUSE Bill 68 would make it unlawful for hospitals not to discharge patients—dead or alive—whose hospital bills, including professional fees, have not been fully settled or guaranteed for payments. The proposed legislation also prescribe penalties for hospitals and physicians found violating the law, if passed.

Among the more common causes of bankruptcy among health facilities—small ones and big medical centers alike—are patients and consignees absconding or reneging on their promissory commitments. Any law, therefore, that encourages patients to demand health care beyond their financial means is a death warrant against health institutions. It may not be part of Filipino culture to be "*balasubas*" and it may be a virtue among health providers to be humane and charitable in the pursuit of their profession, but an unbalanced business ledger discriminates against physicians, nurses, caregivers, hospital owners and health facilities.

The participants in the scenario are: the government, private hospital owners, health institutions, the compromised patients and the legislators. The finger of responsibility points to the government, compromised patients and the legislators.

The Philippine Constitution assigns to the government the responsibility of providing health care for its citizens. Government facilities were few in the 1900s. In 1946, civic-minded doctors with business acumen and resources organized the Philippine Federation of Private Medical Practitioners and established offices and hospitals to complement government facilities. In 1988, as president of the Philippine Medical Association, I counted 2,000 hospitals in the country—500 government and 1,500 private. Due to absconding patients, taxes, expensive facilities and high maintenance and labor cost, etc., 50 percent of those hospitals have gone belly-up. A survey revealed that by 2005 there were only 919 hospitals left in the country—72 government and 849 private—with a combined bed capacity of 69,733—meaning one hospital bed for every 1,144 patients.

The enacment of SB 607 and HB 68 into law will drive another nail into the dying hospital industry's coffin.

With more and more physicians, nurses and caregivers leaving our country, and with our hospitals getting fewer and fewer, our competitiveness in the medical tourism market is being diminished; this gloomy outlook for our nation's health care industry will continue unless reversed by rational, sincere, friendly laws.

The PMA has long worked and pleaded with Congress for such laws.

—DR. SANTIAGO A. DEL ROSARIO,
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Medical Association; member,
Commission on Legislation,
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Across the NATION

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Fraud accounts sweep canvass sites

ACCOUNTS OF FRAUD and cheating are sweeping canvassing sites in the provinces, raising doubts over a Commission on Elections statement declaring a successful handling of the elections.

In Malasiqui, Pangasinan, the election officer of the town was caught by village officials on Wednesday opening two ballot boxes and inserting an envelope into one of them surreptitiously.

Former Vice Mayor Armando Domantay, a mayoral candidate, told police that Bienvinido Azurin III, acting election officer, was seen by four barangay officials opening the ballot boxes minutes before the municipal canvassing of votes began at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

"My conscience is clear," Azurin told the INQUIRER.

In Baguio City, the Commission on Elections directed the police on Wednesday to arrest an Abra teacher who failed to complete the count in a village of Tineg town where ballots were snatched on Tuesday night.

Armando Velasco, Comelec Cordillera director, said the teacher might have fled in fear.

A spectator ran off with a ballot box and a pile of election returns, while the board of canvassers tabulated votes at a precinct inside the Holy Spirit Academy in Tineg.

Police failed to arrest the suspect.

Velasco gave police until 2 p.m. yesterday to seek out the missing teacher before forming a new canvassing board for Tineg.

"The police were already guarding the precinct but the suspect managed to steal the ballots and escape," he said.

In Abra, Senior Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, Task Force Abra chief, said the town of Tineg has political value and has been a target of cheating and attacks because of its P4 million annual internal revenue allotment.

In Mt. Province, armed men snatched four ballot boxes with election returns in Paracelis town on Tuesday, police said.

Senior Supt. Rogelio Damazo, Mt. Province police director, said the suspects, who were aboard five motorcycles, forced Nida Bayangan, Merlyn Bello and Florencio Gongkawid, all members of a local board of election inspectors, to hand over the ballot boxes while they were waiting for a ride in Barangay Buringal.

In Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, three ballot boxes were switched on Monday night and 30 fake election returns were seen held by a chair of a board of inspectors in a precinct on Tuesday.

Sta. Rosa police chief Reymundo Oliquiano, however, said in a phone interview that there was no report from his men on the switching of ballot boxes.

In Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, provincial canvassing had been reset to 4 p.m. yesterday because no municipality had submitted results.

Two cases of switching of ballots involving teachers marred elections in Mamburao and San Jose towns, Occidental Mindoro.

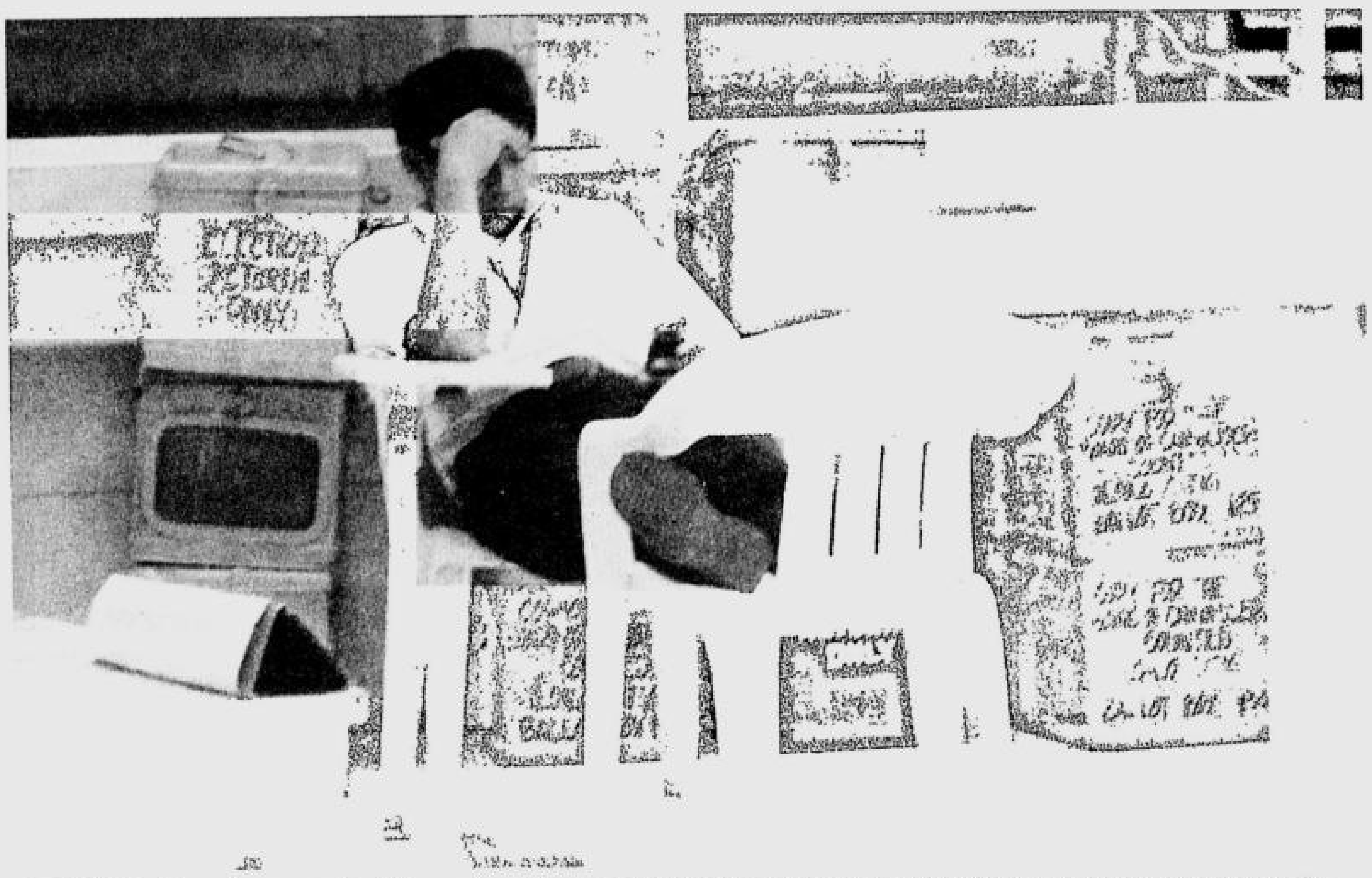
In San Jose, Antique, seven residents of Semirara Island have accused mayor-elect Reynante Lim of Caluya town of vote-buying.

The residents, in their affidavits, said they were given P500 each on May 9 by Lim's brother Efraim and asked to vote straight for candidates of Lakas-CMD and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

The complainants—Cesar de la Torre, Gervacio Magan, Rodelyn de la Torre, Florante Jaranilla, Lito de la Torre Jr., Edwardo Magan, Lita de la Torre and Cristito Rebustes Jr.—are all residents of Sitio Bigo, Barangay Alegria in Semirara Island.

They alleged that Efraim went to each of their houses and left the P500 and also made them sign pieces of paper.

Reynante Lim denied the allegations. *Gabriel Cardinoza, Vincent Cabreza, Frank Cimatu and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Niña Catherine Calleja and Madonna T. Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas*



A COMELEC officer takes a rest after 12 hours of counting votes in Iloilo City. For hundreds of other election workers in other parts of the country, however, rest is still a distant dream.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Bishop Cruz: De Venecia win means Cha-cha again

DAGUPAN CITY—THE ELECTORAL victory of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. in the fourth congressional district race in Pangasinan meant a round won for President Macapagal-Arroyo and her administration's proposed Charter changes, according to Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

"De Venecia's win means the speakership is still hers (Ms Arroyo) and the Charter change [agenda] will move on," said Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

De Venecia, in partial and unofficial results, won over Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim, who represented the district for a term from 1998 to 2001.

In Dagupan, De Venecia received 33,602 votes against Lim's 18,467 votes, according to unofficial results from the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting. The figure represented results from 90 percent of 583 precincts. The city has 79,862 voters.

The other towns in Pangasinan's fourth district are Mangaldan, San Jacinto, Manaoag and San Fabian.

Monitoring of results done by the camps of De Venecia and Lim showed the Speaker headed for reelection.

Cruz said with De Venecia at the district's helm, there would be "no drastic change" in the towns and city comprising it and that there will be "no change in leadership style."

"He will continue doing what he has been doing for years, which is to work for projects" based on [his] socio-economic plan," said Cruz.

Yet, the bishop cited the advantage of De Venecia's victory, saying having a Speaker from the district would be good as "he could get donations from other countries for the district."

But since he is the Speaker, his concerns would go beyond the district.

De Venecia, Cruz said, has to attend to national concerns, "and definitely he will pursue Cha-cha (Charter change)."

Cruz has opposed efforts of the Arroyo administration to push for changes in the 1987 Constitution. Cha-cha was criticized as a veiled plot to put De Venecia in power through a parliamentary form of government.

In an earlier statement, Cruz said the form of government, which Cha-cha proponents were pushing to change, was not the problem.

He said the problem lies with the people running the government, noting that the system does not work because of the people behind it.

"The fundamental problem is not politics but morality among politicians," Cruz said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

NPAs strike in Abra, kill 7 soldiers

BANGUED, ABRA—AT LEAST seven soldiers were killed while three others were wounded in a gun battle with communist New People's Army rebels in Boliney town on Wednesday.

The attack prompted the police to delay the transfer of ballot boxes in Boliney to the capital town of Bangued for the provincial canvassing.

Marinette Reyes, a nurse at the Abra Provincial Hospital where the victims were taken, said six soldiers died in the fighting. The seventh fatality was taken to a funeral parlor here.

One of those killed was 2nd Lt. Mark Evan Onrubia, one of the unit leaders of the 41st Infantry Battalion and graduate of the Philippine Military Academy. His body was taken to the Funeraria Baquiran here.

Second Lt. Federico Morales, an officer stationed at an Army base here, said the three wounded soldiers were taken to Metro Manila for treatment. Morales declined to identify the casualties.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER indicated that at least 40 rebels ambushed Onrubia's unit in Boliney at around 5:45 a.m.

On Sunday, soldiers engaged NPA rebels in another village of Boliney. No casualties were reported.

In a television interview on Wednesday, Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres Jr., Army spokesperson, said the rebels intended to snatch ballot boxes from Barangay Bao-yan in Boliney.

The soldiers were "clearing the road from armed threats when the incident happened," he said.

Chief Supt. Raul Gonzales, Cordillera police director, said the ballot boxes in Boliney were kept in the municipal hall and would be transferred to Bangued as soon as the area was secured.

"We were expecting offensives from the NPA, *kasi hindi sila nakakalapit sa* (because they can't get near) polling centers," Gonzales said. *Frank Cimatu with a report from Donna Demetillo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Poll exec who feels uncomfortable bans media

By Felipe V. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—JOURNALISTS IN Capiz condemned on Wednesday the move of city election officer Genalyn Jimenez banning media coverage of the canvassing of votes at the Roxas City session hall.

The officers and members of the National Union of Journalist of the Philippines (NUJP-Capiz), the Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) and the Capiz Independent Media Circle Inc. (CIMCI) signed the manifesto condemning Jimenez's decision.

Jimenez said media men were unruly and disrupt the proceedings of the board of canvassers. She started banning the media 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

She denied the formal request of two local TV programs to cover the canvassing because she said she would not feel comfortable if there were video cameras inside the hall.

Jimenez also said media need not cover the canvassing because the proceedings were transparent to lawyers and watchers of political parties.

But NUJP's John Heredia said media would help ensure transparency and honesty in the proceedings.

Heredia said the lawyers and the watchers were not bound to inform the public of developments in the canvassing.

"Such tasks and obligations are the very essence of the existence of media," he said.

He said the right to information was enshrined in the Constitution.

Joseph Silvias, NUJP vice president and dyOW Bombo Radyo anchorman, said the ban was a direct attack on press freedom and a denial of the people's right to know.

Police differ on cause of Cebu ship explosion

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—POLICE HERE ARE looking at terrorism as an angle in the ship explosion that killed three people and injured 11 others on Tuesday but this early, the chief of the Philippine National Police, Director General Oscar Calderon, said it was not an act of terror.

"It's not related in any manner to terrorism," Calderon told reporters in the PNP headquarters in Quezon City.

But Commodore Alejandro Flora, Coast Guard Eastern Visayas commander, said investigators are checking for signs of sabotage in the engine room where the explosion occurred.

MV Butuan Bay 1, owned by Carlos A. Gothong Lines, had just left port in Mandaue City at 7 p.m. Tuesday when an explosion rocked its engine room.

Fumes stopped investigators from getting into the ship Tuesday night.

Senior Supt. Lani-O Nerez, deputy director for operations of the regional police office, said police have not ruled out the possibility that it was an act of terror.

The three fatalities were identified as Jimmy Laroa Manreal, 57, a ship engineer, and two apprentices Clarito Tagalog Jr. and Jefferson Esguerra.

Comelec seen cause of low Bacoor turnout

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—The Commission on Elections was blamed for the heavy deployment of troops in the town of Bacoor, Cavite, that supporters of a congressional candidate said led to a low turnout of voters in the town.

In a statement, incumbent Mayor Jessie Castillo, who is running for a House seat, said the failure of the Comelec to prevent the camp of Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. from employing armed goons before and during the election has effectively terrorized residents and supporters.

Revilla's brother, Strike, is running against Castillo's wife, Minerva, for the mayoral seat.

"Fear reigned in the hearts of the people of Bacoor on election day. Our supporters from our bailiwicks were prevented from voting by armed goons, masquerading as members of the provincial police force," Castillo said in his statement.

He said preliminary reports indicate that only 38 percent of the total number of registered voters of Bacoor were able to vote. The town has about 230,000 registered voters. Average voters' turnout in previous elections is 60 percent.

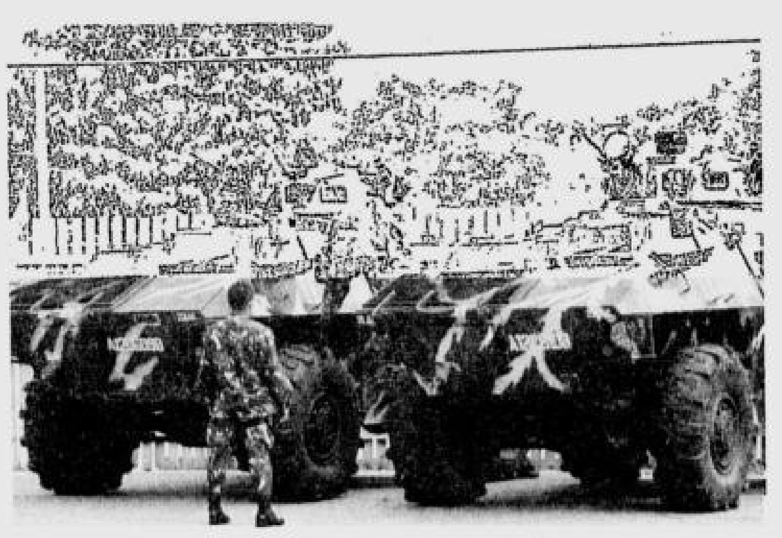
According to Castillo, his supporters sent him text messages reporting the presence of gunmen in their houses who were conducting searches without warrants.

Castillo said the policemen also stayed outside the houses of his supporters in an apparent bid to scare them from voting.

"I'm telling you, Bacoor is now militarized," said the mayor.

Senior Supt. Fidel Posadas, Cavite police director, said the deployment of additional policemen and soldiers was justified and reports that it was an overkill were exaggerated.

Posadas said the number of policemen and soldiers sent to Bacoor was just adequate to prevent bloodshed.



THE INTIMIDATING presence of soldiers and armored personnel carriers, such as these preparing for deployment, was seen to have led to a low turnout and intimidation of voters in Bacoor, Cavite.
BING GONZALES, INQUIRER MINDANAO

He admitted, though, that he sent additional troops, including members of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), in anticipation of clashes between rival mayoral candidates, especially during the canvassing of votes.

"We cannot let our guard down in Bacoor because the mayoral race there is the most hotly contested in the entire province," Posadas told the INQUIRER.

"We want to quickly prevent any violent altercations between supporters of the warring politicians," he said.

Three candidates are vying for the mayoral post of Bacoor, a first-class coastal municipality south of Metro Manila.

Posadas said aside from the members of the town police station, he also sent elements of the Police Provincial Mobile Group, the Police Regional Mobile Group and PAF personnel to ensure peace and order in the area.

Posadas denied the police were being used by some politicians.

"I challenge those who accused us of politicking to present evidence and prove their allegations," he said. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

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Mission helps poor kids with deformities

By Madonna T. Virola
Gloria, Oriental Mindoro

A HEART-PIERCING GROUP prayer by missionaries sent off 3-year-old Chadie Luha, who, for seven months, had been under the care of volunteers of a children's foundation.

Luha was brought back to his family in Gloria town, 66 kilometers south of Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro, where the Ruel Foundation maintains a house for malnourished and deformed children.

The foundation was set up in 1999 after David Cowie, international director for the Marine Reach in Eastern Samar, met a child named Ruel who was dying of malnutrition. The Marine Reach is an organization that provides free medical and optical care to poor, isolated coastal communities around the world.

Ruel had a double cleft lip and palate, which prevented him from swallowing food.

Cowie appealed for funds for Ruel's treatment from his contacts in Australia and New Zealand, his place of origin.

He and his friends realized that Ruel represented the thousands of children around the world who struggle for survival. The children do not have access to aid programs and medical facilities in their own nations because of poverty, ignorance, corruption, bureaucracy and an isolated environment.

First case

Chadie is the first case of reentry into his family. Other children were still undergoing treatment.

Three missionaries—Pauline Curtis Smith, executive director of the foundation, Narelle Barkley and Dr. Marvin Serrano, a dentist—took Chadie to their mercy mobile van for the journey.

Smith served as a pastor in New Zealand, her home country, while Barkley was an administrator in a Christian school in Australia.

Barkley said the group's advocacy had made people in developed countries think of the big world, each having an inner desire to do good.

On the road, she sat at the back, with Chadie laughing and playing on her lap.

Barkley showed him the view outside and reviewed animal sounds he already mimicked. Then she showed him pictures of animals.

Poor family

Chadie's mother, Felicitacion or Fely, 35, and four other siblings—aged 8, 7, 5 and 1—were waiting for Chadie in their simple house that was being built in Gloria.

Smith returned Chadie to his mother, with a pack of reading materials on nutrition, a child's book and syrup vitamins.

Chadie's father Igleserio, 56, arrived from selling lottery tickets and joined the turnover.

PAULINE Smith (right), executive director of Ruel Foundation, turns over to Felicitacion Luha her child Chadie, after seven months of caring. MADONNA T. VIROLA

Melogean Candelario, municipal social welfare and development officer, came on a motorcycle and gave the missionaries a report of the house being built, which was sponsored by the foundation as part of the reentry program.

The Luha family used to share a room with another family.

They agreed with the missionaries to put up a vegetable garden in their backyard with the seeds provided them.

"The foundation took my suggestion to lend us a capital to sell fish," said Fely.

Candelario said the Luha family had been their client "with all of their children malnourished."

A letter for the return of the child with the logo of Mercylink Global Foundation was signed by the parents.

After one month, Chadie was to be revisited by the missionaries.

Compassion

At the foundation's house hang pictures of over a hundred children with deformities who have been successfully operated on. The cases include cleft lip, double cleft lip and palate, hydrocephalus, deformed foot and tumor.

"Many of them have been rejected by their families and communities because of their physical deformities," Smith said.

Upstairs are cribs where children are taken care of by nannies, as well as a playing area and a nurses' room. Downstairs are the receiving room and office.

The house staff closely monitors a newly admitted child for 24 hours.

On regular days, the missionaries are up at 6 a.m., start the day with a prayer, and take care of the children with their food intake, play, sleep and other stimulating activities.

The children come from hospital visits (like Chadie) or personal encounters along the road. The missionaries make sure that they are really poor to help themselves.

Cowie's group came to Oriental Mindoro in 2002 on an outreach mission. They served in Manila for one year and returned to bring comfort to more children.

Mindoro is the pilot area, Smith said.

"We realized that nobody here is doing what we are doing," she said.

She said God gave her a vision of suffering children. "I couldn't sleep at night, I was crying over the sight of children."

Smith estimated that the province had 500 more children with cleft lip.

Since last year, the group has attended to over a hundred cases.

"It is very touching when we see mothers with helpless tears and dads very grateful to God," Smith said. The parents would give them bananas in gratitude, she said. "That means so much to us as it comes from their heart," she said.

Donations

The foundation relies mostly on donations from fund-raising activities such as the milk powder project for malnourished children or donation boxes distributed in New Zealand.

"A cup of coffee in my country means making a difference in the life of a child here. There is so much purpose here, this is just a different expression of caring where there is a great joy in seeing children reach their God-given potential only if we give them attention, food and love," Barkley said.

Serrano was twice jailed for drug use. He became part of a dental outreach program in Muntinlupa.

Finding meaning in the mission, he was referred to Mercylink, a faith-based organization, and met Smith.

Now, he finds himself fully devoted to the Ruel Foundation, the service arm of Mercylink.

The volunteers said that while they had made friends with locals, like the MMG, a local hospital, doctors and Philhealth, they had difficulties in getting their visas although in their hearts, "we are here just to help."

The Ruel Foundation needs donations for the mission. Volunteers are also welcome. Visit www.ruelfoundation.com, call 0928-4251251/043-2882039 or e-mail info@ruelfoundation.com.

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It's time everyone flies.

Mangyan folk key to polls in town

STA. CRUZ, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO—IT'S A very tight fight between mayoral candidates Leonardo Abeleda (incumbent) and Filemon Galsim in this town where Mangyan voters number by the thousands and are crucial to a candidate's victory.

But Mangyan natives inhabiting Sitio Sapo in the interior of this town said their votes are no longer for sale and no politician's threat and manipulation can sway them into voting not according to their will.

"We're learning to write the names of the candidates we choose based on who respects our rights. We walk in buddies, at home by 5 p.m., and we've formed groups to watch over our community overnight," said Mangyan Jun Basa.

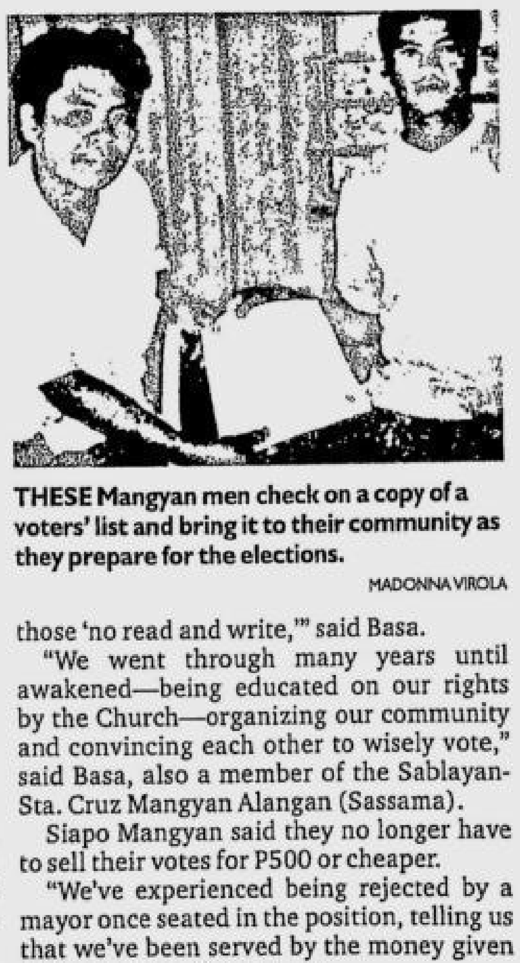
"This is a breakthrough in the plight of the Mangyan, being victims during elections," said a missionary sister as Mangyan voters flocked to her and reported their experiences of being harassed.

The Mangyan related that a mayoral candidate's men had been harassing them with guns and verbal threats.

They reported this to soldiers, with whom they had dialogues regarding their rights and the men left them.

But the harassment continues, even in their neighbor's communities, so that some Mangyans decided to stay in the place of their chosen mayor until after they have voted.

Luisito Vicente, 39, barangay councilor in Siapo, said they were telling Mangyan students to assist their parents in writing the names of their candidates.



THESE Mangyan men check on a copy of a voters' list and bring it to their community as they prepare for the elections. MADONNA VIROLA

"Gone are the days when Tagalogs dictate to us whom to vote for or take advantage of those 'no read and write,'" said Basa.

"We went through many years until awakened—being educated on our rights by the Church—organizing our community and convincing each other to wisely vote," said Basa, also a member of the Sablayan-Sta. Cruz Mangyan Alangan (Sassama).

Siapo Mangyan said they no longer have to sell their votes for P500 or cheaper.

"We've experienced being rejected by a mayor once seated in the position, telling us that we've been served by the money given during election," said Basa.

They were denied of their requests for a solar dryer for *palay* and better roads, and, to their surprise, government seeds were even being sold to them.

Madonna T. Virola

INQGRAPH: LOUIE BACANI

ELEKSYON 2007

CAR

ABRA

(PPCRV as of 1 p.m., 18 towns)	
Governor	
BERSAMIN, Eustaquio (Kampi)	49202
VALERA, Ma. Zita (PDSP)	27942
Vice Governor	
BAROÑA, Victorino Jr. (PDSP)	24873
DUMASEN, Marlyn (Lakas)	11662
PARUGGANAN, Ramon (Kampi)	17769
Congressman (lone)	
LUNA, Cecilia (LP)	19409
MOLINA, Mailed (Lakas-CMD)	5957
SEQUERRA, Alexander (PDSP)	
VALERA, GIL (Lakas-CMD)	11791
VALERA, Vicente (NPC)	19186

BENGUET

Governor	
Comelec as of 4 pm	
FONGWAN, NESTOR (Kampi)	26207
MELCHOR, BORROMEO (Lakas-CMD)	21939
TABANDA, EDNA (LDP)	6522
Vice Governor	
Comelec as of 3:30 pm, 8 towns	
PECALSO, Crescencio (Lakas)	25080
SACLA, Wasing (Kampi)	26848
Congressman	
COSALAN, RONALD (LDP)	20814
DANGWA, SAMUEL (Lakas-CMD)	34100
GUZNIAN, BEDIS (Ind.)	
BAGUIO CITY	
(PPCRV as of 3:51 pm)	
Congressman (lone district)	
DOMOGAN, Mauricio (Lakas-CMD)	26151
KINDIPAN, Ramon (Ind.)	405
MOLINTAS, Jose Mencio (NPC-UNO)	21104
TAYENGCO, Thomas (KBL)	269
Mayor	
(PPCRV as of 3:51 pm)	
BAUTISTA, Reinaldo Jr. (Kampi)	15598
BAUTISTA, Virgilio (Ind)	411
HERNANDEZ, Guillermo (Ind)	315
LABO, Ramon (KBL)	1715
NEVADA, Elmo (PRP)	3205
RAMOS, Felipe (Ind)	251
VERGARA, Bernardo (Lakas/NPC)	7924
YANGOT, Leandro Jr. (LP)	9543
YARANON, Braulio (LDP-UNO)	9394
Vice Mayor	
DATUIN, Elmer	4148
FARIÑAS, Daniel	5446
MASCAREÑAS, Antolin	1709
OLOWAN, Faustino	6501
ORTEGA, Roberto	4999
TENEFRANCIA, Edilberto	4575

IFUGAO

Governor	
(Namfrel as of 11 a.m., 637 precincts)	
BAGUILAT, Teodoro Jr. (LP)	24259
BALITANG, Eugene (LDP)	21886
PRUDENCIANO, Glenn (Lakas-CMD)	22208
Vice Governor	
CAPPLEMAN, Benjamin Sherwin (Ind)	15264
DINAMLING, Nora (LP)	19279
MAGUIWE, Noli (Lakas)	17759
MAYAM-O, Pedro (Kampi)	13716
Congressman	
(Namfrel as of 11 am, 600 precincts)	
CHUNGALAO, Solomon (CAPP)	25201
DULAWAN, John Wesley (LP)	12280
WACHAYNA, Placido Jr (Ind)	5654

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

(Comelec as of 11.30 am, 162 precincts)	
Governor	
DOMINGUEZ, Harry (Ind)	7995
DALOG, Maximo (Lakas-CMD)	10194
LACWASAN, Bonifacio Jr. (Kampi)	9126
Vice Governor	
DOMINGUEZ, Benjamin (Ind)	9719
CLAVER, Louis Jr. (Ind)	12161
Congressman (lone)	
MALINIAS, Sario (LP)	2698
DOMINGUEZ, Jupiter (Ind)	8302
LINGWA, Elren Joseph (Ind)	107
PILANDO, Arnulfo (Partido Liberal)	4740
DOMINGUEZ, Victor (Kampi)	1046
SIBLAWAN, Francisco (Ind)	16
AFADCHAY, Carlito (Ind)	

ILOCOS REGION

ILOCOS NORTE

Governor	
(PPCRV as of 12 pm, 18 towns)	
KEON, Michael (Kampi)	92856
FARIÑAS, Rodolfo (NPC)	54209
Vice Governor	
CHUA, Windell (KBL)	108981
Congressman (1st district)	
(PPCRV as of 12 pm, 18 towns)	
ABLAN, Roque Jr. (Lakas)	37400
SALES, Reynolan (PMP)	36643
VENTURA, Cesar (PDP-Laban)	450
Congressman (2nd district)	
MARCOS, Ferdinand Jr. (KBL)	61638
LAOAG CITY	
(PPCRV as of 12 pm, 18 of 22 towns)	
Mayor	
ALBANO, Rowland (LP)	6201
BRILLANTE, Simon (KBL)	96
FARINAS, Michael (Kampi)	17499
GARMA, Joseph (Aksyon Demokratiko)	41

ILOCOS SUR

(Comelec as of 3 pm, 1908 precincts)	
Governor	
RAFANAN, Elren (PMP)	102365
SAVELLANO, Deogracias Victor (Lakas)	105686
SISON, Roque (Ind)	324
Vice Governor	
CORDERO, Estelita (UNO)	44686
SINGSON, Jeremias (Lakas)	137062
Congressman (1st district)	
BATERINA, Bertrand (LP)	22088
SINGSON, Ronald (Lakas)	52788
Congressman (2nd district)	
ANTOLIN, Ernesto (Ind)	1217
CAPELA, Henry (Ind)	2580
SINGSON, Eric (LP)	111171
VIGAN CITY	
(Comelec final results)	
Mayor	
MEDINA, Eva Marie	winner
Vice Mayor	
RANCHES, Francisco Jr.	winner
CANDON CITY	
(Comelec final results)	
Mayor	
SINGSON, Allen (proclaimed)	20907
VIROCEL, Wilfredo	657
Vice Mayor	
ITCHON, Nestor (proclaimed)	19633

LA UNION

SAN FERNANDCO CITY	
(Comelec as of 9 a.m.)	
Mayor	
FLORES, Godofredo (Kampi)	798
ORTEGA, Pablo (Lakas)	7551

PANGASINAN

(PPCRV as of 12 pm)	
Governor	
AGBAYANI, Jamie Eloise (Ind)	56850
ESPINO, Amado Jr. (Kampi)	77308
LAMBINO, Oscar (Lakas)	19115
Vice Governor	
PRIMICIAS, Marlyn (Kampi)	59886
VILLAR, Dionisio (Lakas)	27947
Congressman (2nd district)	
AGBAYANI, Victor (Lakas)	26503
BENGZON, Jose III (Kampi)	13322
BERNARDO-LOKIN, Ma. Blanca Kim (NPC)	9584
Congressman (3rd district)	
ARENAS, Ma. Rachel (Lakas)	15845
SORIANO, Gallant (PDSP)	12954
TULAGAN, Generoso Jr. (Kampi)	16474
DE VERA, Leocadio Jr. (NPC)	13087
Congressman (4th district)	
DE VENECIA, Jose Jr. (Lakas)	45965
LIM, Benjamin (PDP-Laban)	23167
Congressman (5th district)	
COJUANGCO, Marcos (NPC)	1439
URDANETA CITY	
(Comelec final results at 10:45 am, 335 precincts)	
Mayor	
PEREZ, Amadeo Jr. (NPC)	38470
Vice Mayor	
CARANCHO, Emmanuel (NPC)	13900
PARAYNO, Julio (LDP)	29272

CAGAYAN VALLEY

CAGAYAN

(PPCRV as of 1 pm)	
Governor	
ANTONIO, Alvaro (Lakas)	306
CALIMAG, Sherwin (Ind)	4
DE LOS SANTOS, Joven (Ind)	9
ESPINOSA, Eladio (Ind)	
LARA, Edgar (NPC)	345
PEREZ, Jose (Ind)	3
Vice Governor	
CAYOSA, Domingo (Ind)	252
FAUSTO, Leonides (LP)	342
FERNANDEZ, Estrella (Ind)	32
PAGULAYAN, Oscar Jr (LDP)	185
PASCUAL, Floranta (NPC)	162
SANTOS, Bernie (Ind)	4

NUEVA VIZCAYA

(Comelec as of 4 p.m., 9 towns)	
Governor	
AGBAYANI, Rodolfo (NPC/Kampi)	24277
CUARESMA, Ma. Luisa (NP)	29437
Vice Governor	
GAMBITO, Jose (Abante Nueva Vizcaya)	28738
SADDUL, Reonel (NPC)	22163
Congressman (lone)	
LANTION, Ralph (Lakas-CMD)	19053
PADILLA, Carlos (NP)	33437
SALUN-AT, Ernesto (Ind)	1576
VICTORIO, Felizardo (Ind)	100

CENTRAL LUZON

NUEVA ECIJA

(Namfrel as of 7 am, 10 towns)	
Governor	
JOSON, Mariano Cristino (Kampi)	84975
UMALI, Aurelio (Lakas)	117734
Vice Governor	
JOSON, Edward Thomas	97297
TARUC, Jose (Lakas)	82488
Congressman (1st district)	
DIAZ, Renato (Lakas)	12963
JOSON, Eduardo Nonato (Balane)	11910
Congressman (3rd district)	
CHUA, Voltaire (Kampi)	29272
FAJARDO, Pacifico (LP)	11161
JOSON, Eduardo IV (UNO)	7137
UMALI, Czarina (Lakas)	32639
Congressman (4th district)	
ANTONINO, Rodolfo (Kampi)	94942
PADIERNOS, Gay (Lakas)	29260
VILLAREAL, Julita (UNO)	19663

PAMPANGA

(Namfrel as of 3.54 pm)	
Governor	
GUILLERMO, Edna (Ind)	481
LAPID, Mark (Lakas)	111504
MANIAGO, Arnold (Ind)	443
PAMATONG, Elly (Ind)	340
PANLILIO, Eddie (Ind)	127797
PINEDA, Lilia (Kampi)	126576
Vice Governor	
GUIAO, Joseller (Kampi)	164183
LAUS, Paul Rislan (Lakas)	148973
Congressman (1st district)	
BACANI, Luisito (Ind)	76
LAZATIN, Carmelo (Lakas)	12479
NEPOMUCENO, Gerald (NPC)	10077
Congressman (2nd district)	
ARROYO, Juan Miguel (Lakas)	70836
MONTEMAYOR, Jose Jr. (LP)	4457
Congressman (3rd district)	
GONZALES, Aurelio Jr. (Kampi)	40674
LABUNG, Ferdinand (PDSP)	34714
LAGMAN, Eligio (NPC)	21305
SANTOS, Amado (Ind)	604
Congressman (4th district)	
BONDOC, Anna York (NP)	95576
MAGLANQUE, Rene (NPC)	29407
SONZA, Jose (Ind)	951
TARUC, Reynaldo (PMP)	80

TARLAC

(Comelec as of 11 am, 181 precincts)	
Governor	
CALMA, Ernesto (Ind)	20
COJUANGCO, Jose Jr. (Kampi)	11019
YAP, Victor (NPC)	8552
ESPINA, Ernesto (PMP)	50
Vice Governor	
AGANON, Marcelino Jr. (NPC)	10791
ROY, Rey (Kampi)	8084
Congressman (1st district)	
MANUEL, Lucia (Kampi)	231
PRIETO-TEODORO, Monica Louise (NPC)	13755
MAURICIO, Leny (Ind)	224

ZAMBALES

(PPCRV as of 9.30 am, in 4 towns)	
Governor	
MAGSAYSAY, Jesus Vicente (Lakas)	14507
DELOSO, Amor (LP)	31283
TORRES, Ruben (Kampi)	7196
PASCUA, Teofilo (Ind)	3
Vice Governor	
ABASTA, Sancho (Lakas)	6032
DOMRANG, Maming (NPC)	6
MAGSALIN, Buenaventura (PMP)	20962
GORDON, Anne Marie (LP)	23762

CALABARZON

BATANGAS

(Namfrel as of 10 am, 1169 precincts)	
Governor	
SANTOS-RECTO, Rosa Vilma (Lakas)	130905
SANARES, Nestor (PMP)	10552
SANCHEZ, Armando (Kampi)	96482
MANDANAS, Marcos Sr. (Ind)	1655
Vice Governor	
BUSTAMANTE, Praxedes (Ind)	750
DE LEON, Christopher (UNO)	43519
ERMITA, Edwin (Lakas)	92524
LEVISTE, Jose Antonio II (Kampi)	90630
MAGSOMBOL, Fortunata (KBL)	515
Congressman (1st district)	
ERMITA-BUHAIN, Eileen (Lakas)	57104
APACIBLE, Raymund (UNO)	30457
Congressman (2nd district)	
GUTIERREZ, Luis (Ind)	102
CABIGAO, Orestes (Lakas)	12394
MANDANAS, Hermilando (LP)	43687
MENDOZA, Edgar (Kampi)	7453
Congressman (4th district)	
SABILI, Meynardo (Ind)	17981
MENDOZA, Mark Llandro (NPC)	18800
RECTO, Richard (UNO)	3673
LIPA CITY	
(PPCRV as of 4:48 p.m., 534 precincts)	
Mayor	
AFRICA, Eric (Kampi)	15500
GOZOS, Oscar (Lakas)	54411
PANGANIBAN, Mario (PMP)	8022

CAVITE

(PPCRV as of 4 p.m.)	
Governor	
MALIKSI, Ireneo (LP)	38694
GADANG, Arsenio (Ind)	1214
Vice Governor	
CAMPAÑA, Dencito (LP)	27123
Congressman (1st district)	
ABAYA, Joseph Emilio (LP)	3959
BERADO, Gerbi (Ind)	1
CASTILLO, Jessie (LDP)	1561
JATSON, Jose Herminio	10
Congressman (2nd district)	
BARZAGA, Elpidio Jr. (LP)	13288
CALE, Franklin (Ind)	138
REMULLA, Gilbert (NP)	16505
Congressman (3rd district)	
CAUSAREN, Vivencio (Ind)	8
REMULLA, Jesus Crispin (NPC)	5029
DE CASTRO, Armando (LP)	1416

LAGUNA

(PPCRV as of 3.58 p.m.)	
Governor	
LAZARO, Teresita (Lakas)	78082
OLIVAREZ, Edwin (UNO)	76731
Vice Governor	
HERNANDEZ, Ramil (UNO)	75323
SISON, Raul Marco (Lakas)	55137
Congressman (1st district)	
ALATIIT, Gabnulang (PMP)	3181
FERNANDEZ, Danilo Ramon (UNO)	25494
JOAQUIN, Nereo Raymund Jr. (Lakas)	14487
PATROMO, Libreto (Ind)	131
VIERNEZA, Felicisimo (Ind)	7829
Congressman (2nd district) (PPCRV as of 11pm)	
CHIPECO, Justin Mark (NP)	4312
TAPIA, Susano (Ind)	701
Congressman (3rd district) (PPCRV as of 3:58 pm)	
ALAVA, Adoracion (Kampi)	5182
AMANTE, Damaso (Ind)	2694
AQUINO, Florante (Lakas)	22754
ARAGO, Maria Evita (LP)	27660
ATIENZA, Andrew (Ind)	594
GAPANGADA, Arcadio Najle (NPC)	22660
VELASCO, Enrico (Kampi)	2740
Congressman (4th district) (PPCRV as of 11 pm)	
AGARAO, Benjamin Jr. (LP)	23063
LAGUMBAY, Eulamio (Lakas)	5591
SAN LUIS, Edgar (Ind)	21565
SAN PABLO CITY	
(PPCRV as of 4:49 pm)	
Mayor	
AMANTE, Vicente (NPC/LDP/Aksyon Demokratiko)	49701
BUESER, Danton (LP)	27144
COSICO, Alfredo (Ind)	708

QUEZON

(Namfrel as of 12 noon)	
Governor	
NANTES, Rafael (LP)	103057
SUAREZ, David (Kampi)	112513
Vice Governor	
PORTES, Carlos (Kampi)	120210
RODRIGUEZ, Eduardo (LP)	71807
Congressman (1st district)	
LLAMAS, Fernando (LP)	7081
PASAMBA, Eladio (LAKAS CMD)	11478
ENVERGA, Mark (KAMPI)	21647
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALCALA, Proceso (LP)	85218
ALVAREZ, Liza (KAMPI)	34658
Congressman (3rd district)	
REYES, Victor (LP)	3984
SUAREZ, Danilo (KAMPI)	13406
Congressman (4th district)	
MALITE, Narciso (LAKAS CMD)	4429
TAÑADA, Lorenzo (LP)	22716
RABAYA, Vicente Sr. (NPC)	2766
CITY OF LUCENA	
Mayor	
ALCALA, Roderick (LP)	20927
TALAGA, Ramon Jr. (Kampi)	30680

MIMAROPA

MARINDUQUE

(Namfrel as of 9 a.m., 136 precincts)	
Governor (Namfrel as of 9am)	
CARRION, Jose Antonio (Ind)	7961
DAQUIOAG, Narciso (Ind)	2605
GO, Melecio (Kampi)	3073
MORALES, Percival (Lakas)	3792
RED, Wilfredo (UNO)	4571
Vice Governor	
PALMA, Leandro (Lakas)	7720
PIZARRO, Tomas (Kampi)	9689
Congressman	
ALIÑO, Santiago (Ind)	463
LIM, James (Ind)	13646
REYES, Carmencita (Lakas)	8357

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

(Namfrel as of 11 a.m. 70 percent of precincts)	
Governor (Namfrel as of 11 am)	
SATO, Josephine (NPC)	52496
OMANIO, Ronnie (Ind)	35710
Congressman	
VILLAROSA, Ma. Amelita (Kampi)	48260
JARAVATA, Ernesto (NPC)	34586
ARRIOLA, Pete (UNO)	1509
PIMENTEL, Samioen Sr. (PMP)	171
MAMBURAO *(Mayor)*	
VILLAROSA, Voltaire Anthony (Kampi)	4473
PANALIGAN, Joel (UNO)	4808
LEGASPI, Fe (NPC)	1413

ORIENTAL MINDORO

(Namfrel as of 12 noon, 1145 merged precincts)	
Governor	
PANALIGAN, Aman (Lakas)	108209
MARASIGAN, Murphy (PMP)	49903
Congressman (1st district)	
VALENCIA, Rodolfo (Lakas)	58094
LEVISTE, Renato (NPC)	49070
DELOS REYES, Pol Alzona (Ind)	1151
Congressman (2nd district)	
SALCEDO, Margaux Marie (PMP)	18811
UMALI, Alfonso (LP)	39750
CALAPAN CITY	
(Namfrel as of 7:50 a.m., 152 merged precincts)	
REPIZO, Gilbert (KAMPI)	2855
RAMIREZ, Gil (LDP)	7820
LEACHON, Paulino (Liberal)	9608
PARAS, Roberto (LAKAS-CMD)	9466

PALAWAN

(Namfrel as of 10 a.m., 173 precincts)	
Governor	
REYES, Mario Joel (Lakas)	13795
ACOSTA, Andrie (Ind)	314
KATON, Edmundo (Ind)	32
Vice Governor	
PONCE DE LEON, David (NPC)	13436
Congressman (2nd district)	
MITRA, Abraham Kahlil (NPC)	11536
LOPEZ, Richard (Ind)	37
MORALES, Christopher (Ind)	51
LAGASCA, Raymundo Jr. (LP)	3047
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY	
Mayor	
HAGEDORN, Edward (Kampi)	10670
MATILLANO, Eduardo (Kampi)	4801

ROMBLON

(Nassa-Namfrel as of 4 p.m., 95 percent of precincts)	
Governor	
BELTRAN, Natalio Jr. (Lakas)	41736
GAAN, Telesforo (Ind)	2560
GUTIERREZ, Armando (Kampi)	29905
MARAVILLA, Venizar (UNO)	5790
ROMERO, Samuel (Ind)	12170
Vice Governor	
FETALVERO, Alicia	44703
FONDEVILLA, Andres (Lakas)	39552
Congressman	
CABRERA, Jose Cesar (UNO)	1133
FIRMALO, Eduardo (Kampi)	46578
MADRONA, Eleandro (Lakas)	53348

BICOL REGION

ALBAY

(PPCRV, as of 1 p.m., 442 precincts)	
Governor	
BICHARA, Stephen (Ind)	3266
GONZALEZ, Fernando (Lakas)	22835
QUIAPON, Abdel Noel	4089
SALCEDA, Jose Ma. Clemente (Ind)	24591
Congressman (1st district)	
(PPCRV, as of 4 p.m., 95 percent)	
BOLO, Jose (Ind)	49
CALISIN, Jesus (UNO)	15525
LAGMAN, Castelar (Lakas)	28383
Congressman (2nd district)	
(PPCRV as of 1 p.m. 442 precincts)	
APIN, Amelia Bonita (UNO)	9032
BICHARA, Al Francis (NP)	14997
IMPERIAL, Carlos (Lakas)	12786
MERCADER, Noel (Ind)	1025
LEGAZPI CITY	
(PPCRV as of 1 p.m.)	
Mayor	
IMPERIAL, Michael Victor (NPC)	6777
ROSAL, Noel (Lakas)	7930
VALENCIA, Reynaldo (Ind)	33
*DARAGA *(PPCRV as of 1 p.m.)*	
Mayor	
JAUCIAN, Gerry	4898
MACASINAG, Onorfe	87
TRIUMFANTE, Cicero	4778
LIGAO CITY	
(Namfrel as of 11:30 a.m.)	
GONZALEZ, Linda	18024
QUIAPON, Renato	13073
TABACO CITY	
(PPCRV as of 4 p.m. 95 percent of precincts)	
Mayor	
LAGMAN-LUISTRO, Cielo Krisel (Lakas)	26642
ROCHA, Oscar (UNO)	9557

CAMARINES SUR

(Namfrel as of 2.30 p.m., 8476 precincts)	
Governor	
PILAPIL, Eduardo P. (Kampi)	55737
VILLAFUERTE, Luis Raymund Jr. F. (Lakas-CMD)	144938
Congressman (1st district)	
ARROYO, Diosdado Ignacio Jose Maria M. (Kampi)	66556
MABULO, Sabas M. (LP/UNO)	41248
Congressman (3rd district)	
BOMBASE, Elmo (Kampi)	2565
FUENTEBELLA, Arnulfo (NPC)	6321
PILAPIL, Procio (LDP) (withdraw)	163
Congressman (4th district)	
ALFELOR, Felix Jr. (Kampi)	23434
BELZA, Diones (Lakas)	5439

MASBATE

(PPCRV as of 10.30 am, 1177 precincts)	
Governor	
ESPINOSA, Emilio Jr. (NPC)	60692
KHO, Olga (Lakas)	64413
SAÑANO, Armando (Kampi)	4648
Vice Governor	
ESPINOSA, Nanette (NPC)	28447
FERNANDEZ, Merlene (Ind)	3547
GADIA, Ruperto (Ind)	2405
REVIL, Vicente (Ind)	40967
VALDEMORO, Herminio	21195
Congressman (1st district)	
BAGALIHOG, Nonilon (PDSP)	80
BRAVO, Narciso Jr. (Kampi)	14712
BUTALID, Rainer (Ind)	12560

SORSOGON

(Namfrel as of 12 noon)	
Governor	
ESCUDERO, Antonio (UNO)	3386
HAMOR, Edwin (NP)	14855
LEE, Inocencio Jr. (Ind)	109
LEE, Sally (Lakas)	15832
Vice Governor	
DERI, Oscar	10745
LAURUNARIA, Renato	13851
Congressman (1st District)	
BALMACEDA, Cesar (Ind)	4137
BAÑARES, Jerry (Kampi)	665
DINEROS, Daniel (Ind)	20
DURAN, Jose Vicente (Lakas)	6690
ESCUDERO, Salvador III (UNO)	12069
OCAMPO, Isagani (Ind)	163
Congressman (2nd district)	
DE CASTRO, Alex (Ind)	41
GOLPEO, Edna (Ind)	20
GOLPEO, Ricardo (NPC)	2480
GONZALES, Rodolfo (PDP-Laban)	2552
RAMOS, Cyril (UNO)	1277
SOLIS, Jose (Kampi)	1448
SORSOGON CITY	
Mayor	
AQUINO, Rebecca (LP)	760
CHUA, Roman (Ind)	771
DELGADO, Rosalio Jr. (Ind)	613
DIONEDA, Leovic (UNO/NP)	14098
RODRIGUEZA, Robert (Lakas)	10157

WESTERN VISAYAS

AKLAN

(COMELEC, as of 2 p.m., 200 of 1,322 precincts)	
Governor	
GALVAN, Kareen	560
GARCIA, Ma. Bettina	13,790
MARQUEZ, Carlito	33,614
RAMOS, Victoria	34,048
Vice Governor	
CALIZO, Gabrielle	48,183
TOLENTINO, Ronquillo	36,563
Congressman	
MIRAFLORES, Florencio	54,422
ACEVEDO, Anthony	16 943

ANTIQUE

(COMELEC, as of 3 p.m., 167 of 1,183 precincts)	
Governor	
PACIFICADOR, Arturo (KBL)	2,855
PEREZ, Salvacion (NPC)	7,682
PLAMERAS, Jovito Jr. (Lakas)	3,987
Vice Governor	
CADIAO, Rhodora J. (Lakas-CMD)	6,819
FORNIER, Francisco X. (Independent)	75
TE, Mary Jean N. (NPC)	6,171
Congressman (lone)	
DELFIN, Robert (PDSP)	7,556
JAVIER, Exequiel (Lakas)	6,635
MALLARES, Narzal (PMP)	513
VILLAFLOR, Antero (Ind)	29

CAPIZ

(COMELEC, as of 4 p.m.)	
Governor	
TANCO, Vic (LP)	351
AMOROSO, Zenon (Ind)	12
Vice Governor	
BARREDO, Felipe	276
Congressman (first district)	
CELINO, Angel Alan (Kampi)	1,007
DEL ROSARIO, Antonio (LP)	953

GUIMARAS

(COMELEC, as of 3 30 p.m.; 13,188 of 16,364 voters)	
Governor	
MIAQUE, Bernie (Kampi)	5,000
NAVA, Felipe (Kampi)	12,318
Vice-Governor	
JABASA, Edgardo A. (Lakas-CMD)	4,850
TIONADO, Aurelio G. (Kampi)	10,840
Congressman	
ESPINOSA, Edgar (Lakas)	8,045
NAVA, Joaquin Carlos Rahman (NPC/Kampi)	10 353

ILOILO

(NAMFREL as of 5 a.m., 903 out of 1,144 precincts)	
ILOILO CITY	
Congressman	
GONZALES, Raul Jr. (Lakas)	64,921
MALABOR, Mansueto (PDP-Laban)	23,936
GENGOS, Vicente (LP)	28,905
Mayor	
TREÑAS, Jerry (Lakas)	102,740
ALIM, Joshua (PDP-Laban)	16666
GAJE, Juanito	50
Vice-Mayor	
MABILOG, Jed Patrick E. (Lakas-CMD)	104,385
PORRAS, Winstone T. (PDP-Laban)	7,134

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

(COMELEC as of 5 p.m.)	
Governor (159 of 10,313 precincts)	
MARAÑON, Joseph (NPC)	19,298
TRIBACO, Luisito (KBL)	78
VALLADAREZ, German (Ind)	135
Vice-Governor (159 of 10,313 precincts)	
ZAYCO, Pedro (Unopposed) Lakas-CMD	9462
Congressman (1st district) (79 precincts)	
CARMONA, Tranquilino (NPC)	1764
LIBRANSO, Ernesto (PMP)	33
LEDESMA, Julio IV (Lakas)	4612
Congressman (4th district) (101 precincts)	
CAMPOSANO, Jorge (KBL)	684
FERRER, Jeffrey (NPC)	7981
Congressman (6th district) (79 precincts)	
ALVAREZ, Genaro Rafael III (UNA)	4824
DABAO, Jesus Manuel (LP)	1178
BACOLOD CITY	
(NAMFREL, 212 of 1,181 precincts)	
Congressman	
DESTACAMENTO, Dante (Ind)	940
HAGAD, Andres (Ind)	16,058
NOVERO, Renecito (NPC)	53,476
PARRENO, Phillen (Ind)	793
PUENTEVELLA, Monico (Lakas)	54,705
TEMPLADO, Marcos (Ind)	249
Mayor	
BERDIN, Jovito (Ind)	813
CALAGUING, Alberto (Ind)	94
DOJILLO, Joel (Ind)	2,279
LEONARDIA, Evelio (NPC)	77,703
PONTERAS, Vicente (LP)	6,387
VALDEZ, Luzviminda (Lakas)	38,652
VERDEFLOR, Oscar (Ind)	2,486
Vice Mayor	
CAÑA, Lyndon (Independent)	45,775
SAYSON, Jude Thaddeus (NPC)	50,483
SY, Elmer (Lakas CMD)	26,071
TINGSON, Abraham (Independent)	544

CENTRAL VISAYAS

BOHOL (NAMFREL)

Governor (as of 9 45 a.m.; 1,420 of 3,263 precincts)	
AUMENTADO, Erico (Lakas)	174,825
CERICOS, Roberto (PDP-Laban)	4,472
DEJAN, Sixto (PDP-Laban)	525
DALAY, Renato (Ind)	2911
DUMALUAN, Teofanes (Ind)	872
MAGAT, Mario Jr. (Ind)	3,067
PELIGRINO, Peter (Ind)	155
Vice Governor	
(as of 9:45 a.m.; 1,420 of 3,263 precincts)	
HERRERA, Julius Caesar	133,612
TIROL, Godofreda	46,718
Congressman (1st district)	
(as of noon; 677 of 1,044 precincts)	
CHATTO, Edgardo (NPC)	79,402
DELA SERNA, Victor (PDP-Laban)	10,206
Congressman (2nd district)	
(as of noon; 316 of 1,074 precincts)	
CAJES, Roberto (Lakas)	32,703
GARCIA, Wenceslao (PDP-Laban)	1,654
Congressman (3rd district)	
(as of noon; 429 of 1,145 precincts)	
JALA, Adam Relson (Lakas)	20,755
RELAMPAGOS, Rene (LDP)	23,477
BALITE, Dionisio (Kampi)	12,149
INTE, Victoriano (Ind)	57
LIM, Alexander (Aksyon Demokratiko)	6,108
MANDERA, Rigoberto (Ind)	101
TAGBILARAN CITY (as of 9:45 a.m.)	
Mayor	
LIM, Dan (NPC)	16,185
TORRALBA, Jose (Lakas)	12,607
Vice-Mayor (as of 9:45 a.m., 233 of 237 precincts)	
TIROL-MONTES, Nuevas (NPC)	12855
VELOSO, Jose Antonio (Lakas)	15206

CEBU

(C-Cimpel, as of 3.10 p.m.)	
Governor (1,433 of 11,047 precincts)	
GARCIA, Gwendolyn (Kampi)	113,215
LEJARDE, Rolando (Ind)	611
OSMEÑA, Mary Joyce (Ind)	3,110
YAPHA, Antonio Jr. (PDSP)	38,695
Vice Governor (1,433 of 11,047 precincts)	
MARTINEZ, Clavel	42,055
SANCHEZ, Gregorio	99,261
Congressman (1st district) (506 of 1,739 precincts)	
ADLAWAN, Ricardo (Ind)	449
BOLOGAITA, Alex (Promdi)	182
CONCEPCION, Felipe (Ind)	1070
GULLAS, Eduardo (Kampi)	47389
RAMA, Enrique (UNO)	4207
Congressman (2nd district) (23 of 1,775 precincts)	
ABINES, Crisologo (GO)	160
CAMASURA, Franklin (Ind)	6
GARCIA, Pablo (Kampi)	1207
KINTANAR, Carmiano (Lakas/NPC)	232
LOZADA, Jose Mari (Lakas-PMP-KBL)	1
Congressman (3rd district) (4 of 1,741 precincts)	
GARCIA, Pablo John (Kampi)	182
YAPHA, Estrella (Lakas)	207
Congressman (4th district) (146 of 1,639 precincts)	
MARTINEZ, Celestino III (Lakas)	4207
SALIMBANGON, Benhur (Kampi)	6998
MARTINEZ, Edilito	38
Congressman (6th district) (794 of 2,377 precincts)	
SOON-RUIZ, Nerissa (Kampi)	42,293
QUISUMBING, Gabriel Luis (Lakas)	39,120
DELA SERNA, Vicente (Ind)	8729
CEBU CITY	
Congressman (1st District) (751 of 1,183 precincts)	
DEL MAR, Raul (Lakas-BOPK)	76,135
VILLARIN, Florencio (GO)	4,486
ARENASA, Juan (Ind)	540
Congressman (2nd District) (838 of 1,830 precincts)	
CUENCO, Antonio (Lakas-BOPK)	40,775
GUARDO, Jonathan (GO)	30,571
Mayor (1,589 of 3,013 precincts)	
OSMEÑA, Tomas (BOPK)	101,675
DELOS SANTOS, Mary Ann (GO)	59,865
Vice-Mayor (1,589 of 3,013 precincts)	
ABANGAN, Cristulo F. (Independent)	594
GARCIA, Raymond Alvin N. (Uno-Kusog)	43,048
RAMA, Michael L. (BOPK-Lakas-CMD)	113 951

NEGROS ORIENTAL

(NAMFREL, as of 10 43 a.m., 303 of 348 precincts)	
GOVERNOR	
MARCIAS, Emilio II C.	31,646
TORRES, Samuel B.	1264
VICE GOVERNOR	
BALDADO, Jose A.	30,199
CONGRESSMAN (2nd DISTRICT)	
ANIÑON, Raul Silorio	382
ARNAIZ, George P.	29,899
MONTAÑO, Ramon E.	4,014
DUMAGUETE CITY	
Mayor	
GUARIN, Ardelio (Ind)	343
UMBAC, Arturo (UNO)	15,992
PERDICES, Agustin	20,802
Vice Mayor	
ERAMES, Arturo J. (Independent)	2,554
MAQUILING, Woodrow S. Sr. (Liberal)	18,379
ABLONG, William E. (Lakas-Kasaligan)	15 696

SIQUIJOR

(COMELEC, complete 288 precincts)	
Governor	
AQUINO, Ben (UNO/PMP)	9074
FUA, Orlando Jr. (Lakas)	34427
Vice Governor	
CORTES, Andre Jesu E. (Lakas CMD)	29029
LUMINGKIT, Ulysses C. (PDSP)	9143
Congressman (lone)	
FLOR, Jesus (Ind)	73
FUA, Orlando (Lakas)	30380
GANHINHIN, Carl Mark (LDP)	14109

EASTERN VISAYAS

BILIRAN

(NAMFREL, as of 11 a.m., 8 towns)	
Governor	
ALMADRO, Ruben (LP)	7,284
AMBE, Edgardo (Ind)	115
ESPINA, Rogelio (Lakas)	16,533
Vice Governor	
CURSO Lucila (LakasCMD)	11,289
JARO, Chris (Independent- LP)	4,278
MADERAZO, Melchor (Independent)	4,091
Congressman (lone)	
CHONG, Glenn (LP)	36,097
ESPINA, Gerardo Sr. (Kampi)	30,356
VISBAL, Robert (Ind)	11

EASTERN SAMAR

(NAMFREL, as of noon, 89 of 371 precincts)	
Governor	
CARMENFORTE, Camilo (UNO-GO)	11,462
EVARDONE, Ben (Lakas)	47,641
Vice Governor	
ANASABIAS, Rodulfo	6,272
GELI, Leander	41,063
Congressman (lone)	
COQUILLA, Teodulo (PMP-UNO)	32,430
DOCENA, Agustin (UNO-GO)	753
LIBANAN, Elda (Lakas)	31 716

SOUTHERN LEYTE

(COMELEC, final)	
Governor	
LERIAS, Marisa (NPC)	29,767
MERCADO, Damian (Lakas)	33,532
Vice Governor	
MAAMO, Miguel II (Lakas-CMD)	27,801
TUMOL, Eva (NPC)	30,089
Congressman (lone)	
CASTAÑARES, Roberto (LP)	31,903
MERCADO, Roger (Lakas)	33,322
MAASIN CITY	
Mayor	
LERIAS, Rosette (NPC)	8,940
SAMACO, Maloney (Lakas)	7,878
Vice Mayor	
ABIERA, Marie Effie (Lakas-CMD)	8,808
BASCUG, Arturo (NPC)	6,523

NORTHERN MINDANAO

BUKIDNON

(Namfrel as of 12.30 pm)	
Governor	
ACOSTA, Nereus Jr. (LP)	25510
ZUBIRI, Jose Ma. Jr. (Lakas)	78266
Vice Governor (Namfrel as of 12:30 pm)	
CALINGASAN, Alex (Lakas)	71003
DOYDORA, Ricardo (LP)	9283
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 12:30 pm)	
ACOSTA, Ma. Lourdes (LP)	27769
GARCILLANO, Virgilio (Ind)	17129
PANCRUDO, Candido Jr. (Lakas)	26936
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Namfrel as of 12:30 pm)	
ARTACHO, Mario Gerardo (LP)	551
BIOCO, Roderico (Kampi)	12339
GALARIO, Glen (Kampi)	6418
GUINGONA, Teofisto III (NPC/UNO)	11132
TABIOS, Ernesto (Ind)	
Congressman (3rd district)	
(Namfrel as of 12:30 pm)	
GARDONES, Fabian (PMP)	1265
ZUBIRI, Jose Ma. III (Lakas)	21385
MALAYBALAY CITY	
(Comelec as of 2:30 pm)	
Mayor	
FLORES, Florencio Jr. (Lakas)	29533
VALLEJOS, Aldrin (Ind)	432

DAVAO DEL SUR

Governor (Namfrel as of 9 35 am, 127 precincts)	
BAUSTISTA, Claude (NPC)	36736
CAGAS, Douglas	55954
VILLAMOR, Rosemarie	324
Vice Governor (Namfrel as of 9:35 am, 127 precincts)	
LATASA, Simplicio (NPC)	36738
RENOVILLA, Ida (Lakas)	23158
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 9:35 am, 127 precincts)	
CAGAS, Marc Douglas (Lakas)	37312
CARILLO, Dominador (Ind)	250
GARCIA, Romualdo (NPC)	14424
KING, Wilhelmina (Ind)	183
LLANOS, Nonito (PDSP)	16921
VILLABER, Pablo (PMP)	3123

DAVAO ORIENTAL

Governor (PPCRV as of 2 55 pm, 637 precincts)	
MALANYAON, Corazon (Kampi)	25909
PALMA GIL, Maria Elena (Lakas)	15618
Congressman (1st district)	
(PPCRV as of 2:55 pm, 637 precincts)	
DAYANGHIRANG, Nelson (Kampi)	5976
INOB, Nelson (Ind)	
PALMA GIL, Maria Sophia (Lakas)	5488
Congressman (2nd district)	
(PPCRV as of 2.55 pm, 637 precincts)	
ALMARIO, Thelma (Lakas)	14854
RABAT, Carlo Luis (LDP)	13489

SOCCSKSARGEN

SOUTH COTABATO

Governor (Namfrel as of 4 pm, 36 precincts)	
FUENTES, Daisy (NPC)	44173
Vice Governor	
OGENA, Elorio	40866
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 10:18 am, 893 precincts)	
ANTONINO-CUSTODIO, Darlene (NPC)	60117
PACQUIAO, Manny	34376
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Namfrel as of 4 pm, 36 precincts)	
PINGOY, Arthur (NPC)	24113
DE PEDRO, Hilario	23835
GENERAL SANTOS CITY	
Mayor (Namfrel as of 10:18 am, 893 precincts)	
ACHARON, Pedro	38535
NUÑEZ, Rosalita	24165
COTABATO CITY	
Mayor	
(Namfrel as of 7 am, 223 out of 564 election returns)	
SEMA, Muslimin (Lakas)	22578
JULIANO, Estrellita Neng (PMP)	5787
DILANGALEN, Bai Sendig (NPC)	15332
CANDAO, Samad (Ind)	
IBRAHIM, Habib (Ind)	

ARMM

SHARIFF KABUNSUAN (NEW)

Congressman (lone)	
(Namfrel as of 7am, 223 out of 564 election returns)	
DILANGALEN, Didagen (NPC)	24960
SEMA, Bai Sandra (Lakas)	14956

MAGUINDANAO

Governor	
AMPATUAN, Andal Sr.	Winner
Vice Governor	
AMPATUAN, Sajid Islam	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
DATUMANONG, Simeon	Winner

CARAGA

AGUSAN DEL NORTE

Governor (Comelec as of 11 am)	
AMANTE, Eripe John (Kampi)	30761
PLAZA, Valentina (Lakas)	22616
Vice Governor (Comelec as of 11 am)	
CORVERA, Enrico (Kampi)	26131
LIBARIOS, Arcedel (Lakas)	20540
Congressman (1st district) (Comelec as of 11 am)	
AQUINO, Jose II (Lakas)	35582
CALO, Angelo (Ind)	17501
JIMENEZ, Angelo (Kampi)	28310
PLAZA, Charito (UNO)	16682
VILLACASTIN, Felix (Ind)	652
Congressman (2nd district) (Comelec as of 11 am)	
AMANTE, Edelmiro (Kampi)	32060
LOMONSOD, Jorge (Ind)	715
PLAZA, Democrito Alberto III (Lakas)	18791
BUTUAN CITY	
Mayor (Comelec as of 11 am)	
EMBOY, Teodoro (Ind)	493
MATBA, Ma. Angelica (Kampi)	56613
PASCUAL, Sergio (UNO)	6071
PLAZA, Democrito II (Lakas)	61301

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

Governor (Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
BARBERS, Robert Ace (Lakas)	25779
NAPULI, Felimon (Partido Padajon Surigao)	6540
ORQUINA, Danilo (Kampi)	5528
VILLAR, Simonte (Ind)	16
Vice Governor (Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
CATRE, Noel (Lakas)	14258
CONGRESO, Launs (Partido Padajon Surigao)	989
ECLEO, Alan (NPC)	12667
NAVARRO, Rodolfo (Kampi)	4733
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
MATUGAS, Francisco (Kampi)	9795
NAVARRO, Wenelisa (Ind)	3687
RAVELO, Marino (UNO)	48
TARUC, Dominador (Ind)	3660
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
ANDANAR, Wencelito (Kampi)	1940
BARBERS, Robert Lyndon (Lakas)	18470
LAGO, Pepito (UNO)	243
PRESTON, Michael (Ind)	12
RAFOLS, Roldan (Ind)	24
ROMARATE, Guillermo Jr. (Partido Padajon Surigao)	17209
SURIGAO CITY	
Mayor (Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
CASURRA, Alfonso (Ind)	20493
MATUGAS, Ernesto (Partido Padajon Surigao)	19487

SURIGAO DEL SUR

Governor (Comelec as of 11 am, 234 precincts)	
PIMENTEL, Vicente Jr. (Lakas)	30290
SALGADO, Elpidio (PMP)	366
Vice Governor (Comelec as of 11 am, 234 precincts)	
NAVARRO, Librado (Lakas)	27020
Congressman (1st district)	
(Comelec as of 11 am, 234 precincts)	
AZARCON, Antonio (PDP-Laban)	1582
MURILLO, Gregorio (Ind)	8257
PICHAY, Philip (Lakas)	22150

COMPILED BY INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON: DESIREE CALUZA, BEN MOSES EBREO, MELVIN GASCON, GABRIEL CARDINOZA, ELMER KRISTIAN DAUIGOY, LEONCIO BALBIN JR., FRANK DELMAR CARIÑO, IAN SORIANO, DARYL DAUDEN, GOBLETH MOULIC; INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON: JO MARTINEZ-CLEMENTE, TONETTE OREJAS, CESAR VILLA; INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU: DELFIN MALLARI JR., MARLON LUISTRO, JUN VIROLA, ROMULO PONTE, ROBERT BAGALAY, EPHRAIM AGUILAR, MADONNA VIROLA, EZREN DOMETITA, MA. CHIELU ABARQUEZ, JASON OPEÑA, ANNIELYN BALEZA; INQUIRER VISAYAS BUREAU: NESTOR BURGOS JR., HAZEL VILLA, MA. DIOSA LABISTE, CARLA GOMEZ, ROMY AMARADO, JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN, BERNADETTE PARCO, FELIPE CELINO, CYRAIN CABUENAS, GRACE PECAOCO, MARVI BENEDICTO, FARRAH TURA, ALEXANDRA JACA; INQUIRER MINDANAO BUREAU: GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN, ALVIN AÑONUEVO, NASH MAULANA, EDWIN FERNANDEZ, CHARLIE SEÑASE, FERDINAND ZUASOLA, DONDON DINOY, AQUILES ZONIO, JOSELLE BADILLA, JEOFFREY MAITEM, FRANKLIN CALIGUID, DOMINADOR TARUC; INQUIRER RESEARCH: CYRIL BONABENTE, LAWRENCE DE GUZMAN, CHONA GALANG, MARICAR TOLOSA

INQGRAPH: LOUIE BACANI

ELEKSYON 2007

CAR

ABRA

(PPCRV as of 1 p.m., 18 towns)	
Governor	
BERSAMIN, Eustaquio (Kampi)	49202
VALERA, Ma. Zila (PDSP)	27942
Vice Governor	
BAROÑA, Victorino Jr. (PDSP)	24873
DUMASEN, Marlyn (Lakas)	11662
PARUGGANAN, Ramon (Kampi)	17769
Congressman (lone)	
LUNA, Cecilia (LP)	19409
MOLINA, Malled (Lakas-CMD)	5957
SEQUERRA, Alexander (PDSP)	
VALERA, GIL (Lakas-CMD)	11791
VALERA, Vicente (NPC)	19186

BENGUET

Governor	
Comelec as of 4 pm	
FONGWAN, NESTOR (Kampi)	26207
MELCHOR, BORROMEO (Lakas-CMD)	21939
TABANDA, EDNA (LDP)	6522
Vice Governor	
Comelec as of 3:30 pm, 8 towns	
PECALSO, Crescencio (Lakas)	25080
SACLA, Wasing (Kampi)	26848
Congressman	
COSALAN, RONALD (LDP)	20814
DANGWA, SAMUEL (Lakas-CMD)	34100
GUZNIAN, BEDIS,(Ind.)	
BAGUIO CITY	
(PPCRV as of 3:51 pm)	
Congressman (lone district)	
DOMOGAN, Mauricio (Lakas-CMD)	26151
KINDIPAN, Ramon (Ind.)	405
MOLINTAS, Jose Mencio (NPC-UNO)	21104
TAYENGCO, Thomas (KBL)	269
Mayor	
(PPCRV as of 3:51 pm)	
BAUTISTA, Reinaldo Jr. (Kampi)	15598
BAUTISTA, Virgilio (Ind)	411
HERNANDEZ, Guillermo (Ind)	315
LABO, Ramon (KBL)	1715
NEVADA, Elmo (PRP)	3205
RAMOS, Felipe (Ind)	251
VERGARA, Bernardo (Lakas/NPC)	7924
YANGOT, Leandro Jr. (LP)	9543
YARANON, Braulio (LDP-UNO)	9394
Vice Mayor	
DATUIN, Elmer	4148
FARIÑAS, Daniel	5446
MASCAREÑAS, Antolin	1709
OLOWAN, Faustino	6501
ORTEGA, Roberto	4999
TENEFRANCIA, Edilberto	4575

IFUGAO

Governor	
(Namfrel as of 11 a.m., 637 precincts)	
BAGUILAT, Teodoro Jr. (LP)	24259
BALITANG, Eugene (LDP)	21886
PRUDENCIANO, Glenn (Lakas-CMD)	22208
Vice Governor	
CAPPLEMAN, Benjamin Sherwin (Ind)	15264
DINAMLING, Nora (LP)	19279
MAGUIWE, Noli (Lakas)	17759
MAYAM-O, Pedro (Kampi)	13716
Congressman	
(Namfrel as of 11 am, 600 precincts)	
CHUNGALAO, Solomon (CAPP)	25201
DULAWAN, John Wesley (LP)	12280
WACHAYNA, Placido Jr. (Ind.)	5654

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

(Comelec as of 11.30 am, 162 precincts)	
Governor	
DOMINGUEZ, Harry (Ind)	7995
DALOG, Maximo (Lakas-CMD)	10194
LACWASAN, Bonifacio Jr. (Kampi)	9126
Vice Governor	
DOMINGUEZ, Benjamin (Ind)	9719
CLAVER, Louis Jr. (Ind)	12161
Congressman (lone)	
MALINIAS, Sario (LP)	2698
DOMINGUEZ, Jupiter (Ind)	8302
LINGWA, Elren Joseph (Ind)	107
PILANDO, Arnulfo (Partido Liberal)	4740
DOMINGUEZ, Victor (Kampi)	1046
SIBLAWAN, Francisco (Ind)	16
AFADCHAY, Carlito (Ind)	

ILOCOS REGION

ILOCOS NORTE

Governor	
(PPCRV as of 12 pm, 18 towns)	
KEON, Michael (Kampi)	92856
FARIÑAS, Rodolfo (NPC)	54209
Vice Governor	
CHUA, Windell (KBL)	108981
Congressman (1st district)	
(PPCRV as of 12 pm, 18 towns)	
ABLAN, Roque Jr. (Lakas)	37400
SALES, Reynolan (PMP)	36643
VENTURA, Cesar (PDP-Laban)	450
Congressman (2nd district)	
MARCOS, Ferdinand Jr. (KBL)	61638
LAOAG CITY	
(PPCRV as of 12 pm, 18 of 22 towns)	
Mayor	
ALBANO, Rowland (LP)	6201
BRILLANTE, Simon (KBL)	96
FARINAS, Michael (Kampi)	17499
GARMA, Joseph (Aksyon Demokratiko)	41

ILOCOS SUR

(Comelec as of 3 pm, 1908 precincts)	
Governor	
RAFANAN, Efren (PMP)	102365
SAVELLANO, Deogracias Victor (Lakas)	105686
SISON, Roque (Ind)	324
Vice Governor	
CORDERO, Estelita (UNO)	44686
SINGSON, Jeremias (Lakas)	137062
Congressman (1st district)	
BATERINA, Bertrand (LP)	22088
SINGSON, Ronald (Lakas)	52788
Congressman (2nd district)	
ANTOLIN, Ernesto (Ind)	1217
CAPELA, Henry (Ind)	2580
SINGSON, Eric (LP)	111171
VIGAN CITY	
(Comelec final results)	
Mayor	
MEDINA, Eva Marie	winner
Vice Mayor	
RANCHES, Francisco Jr.	winner
CANDON CITY	
(Comelec final results)	
Mayor	
SINGSON, Allan (proclaimed)	20907
VIROCEL, Wilfredo	657
Vice Mayor	
ITCHON, Nestor (proclaimed)	19633

LA UNION

SAN FERNANDCO CITY	
(Comelec as of 9 a.m.)	
Mayor	
FLORES, Godofredo (Kampi)	798
ORTEGA, Pablo (Lakas)	7551

PANGASINAN

(PPCRV as of 12 pm)	
Governor	
AGBAYANI, Jamie Eloise (Ind)	56850
ESPINO, Amado Jr. (Kampi)	77306
LAMBINO, Oscar (Lakas)	19115
Vice Governor	
PRIMICIAS, Marlyn (Kampi)	59886
VILLAR, Dionisio (Lakas)	27947
Congressman (2nd district)	
AGBAYANI, Victor (Lakas)	26503
BENGZON, Jose III (Kampi)	13322
BERNARDO-LOKIN, Ma. Bianca Kim (NPC)	9584
Congressman (3rd district)	
ARENAS, Ma. Rachel (Lakas)	15845
SORIANO, Gallant (PDSP)	12954
TULAGAN, Generoso Jr. (Kampi)	16474
DE VERA, Leocadio Jr. (NPC)	13087
Congressman (4th district)	
DE VENECIA, Jose Jr. (Lakas)	45965
LIM, Benjamin (PDP-Laban)	23167
Congressman (5th district)	
COJUANGCO, Marcos (NPC)	1439
PARAYNO, Julio (LDP)	26272
URDANETA CITY	
(Comelec final results at 10:45 am, 335 precincts)	
Mayor	
PEREZ, Amadeo Jr. (NPC)	38470
Vice Mayor	
CARANCHO, Emmanuel (NPC)	13906

CAGAYAN VALLEY

CAGAYAN

(PPCRV as of 1 pm)	
Governor	
ANTONIO, Alvaro (Lakas)	308
CALIMAG, Sherwin (Ind)	4
DE LOS SANTOS, Joven (Ind)	9
ESPINOSA, Eladio (Ind)	
LARA, Edgar (NPC)	345
PEREZ, Jose (Ind)	3
Vice Governor	
CAYOSA, Domingo (Ind)	252
FAUSTO, Leonides (LP)	342
FERNANDEZ, Estrella (Ind)	32
PAGULAYAN, Oscar Jr (LDP)	185
PASCUAL, Florante (NPC)	162
SANTOS, Bernie (Ind)	4

NUEVA VIZCAYA

(Comelec as of 4 p.m., 9 towns)	
Governor	
AGBAYANI, Rodolfo (NPC/Kampi)	24277
CUARESMA, Ma. Luisa (NP)	29437
Vice Governor	
GAMBITO, Jose (Abante Nueva Vizcaya)	28736
SADDUL, Reonel (NPC)	22163
Congressman (lone)	
LANTION, Ralph (Lakas-CMD)	19053
PADILLA, Carlos (NP)	33437
SALUN-AT, Ernesto (Ind)	1576
VICTORIO, Felizardo (Ind)	100

CENTRAL LUZON

NUEVA ECIJA

(Namfrel as of 7 am, 10 towns)	
Governor	
JOSON, Mariano Cristino (Kampi)	84975
UMALI, Aurelio (Lakas)	117734
Vice Governor	
JOSON, Edward Thomas	97297
TARUC, Jose (Lakas)	82488
Congressman (1st district)	
DIAZ, Renato (Lakas)	12963
JOSON, Eduardo Nonato (Balane)	11910
Congressman (3rd district)	
CHUA, Voltaire (Kampi)	29272
FAJARDO, Pacifico (LP)	11161
JOSON, Eduardo IV (UNO)	7137
UMALI, Czarina (Lakas)	32639
Congressman (4th district)	
ANTONINO, Rodolfo (Kampi)	94942
PADIERNOS, Gay (Lakas)	29260
VILLAREAL, Julita (UNO)	19663

PAMPANGA

(Namfrel as of 3.54 pm)	
Governor	
GUILLERMO, Edna (Ind)	481
LAPID, Mark (Lakas)	111504
MANIAGO, Arnold (Ind)	443
PAMATONG, Elly (Ind)	340
PANLILIO, Eddie (Ind)	127797
PINEDA, Lilia (Kampi)	126576
Vice Governor	
GUIAO, Joseller (Kampi)	164183
LAUS, Paul Ristan (Lakas)	148973
Congressman (1st district)	
BACANI, Luisito (Ind)	76
LAZATIN, Carmelo (Lakas)	12479
NEPOMUCENO, Gerald (NPC)	10077
Congressman (2nd district)	
ARROYO, Juan Miguel (Lakas)	70836
MONTEMAYOR, Jose Jr. (LP)	4457
Congressman (3rd district)	
GONZALES, Aurelio Jr. (Kampi)	40674
LABUNG, Ferdinand (PDSP)	34714
LAGMAN, Eligio (NPC)	21305
SANTOS, Amado (Ind)	604
Congressman (4th district)	
BONDOC, Anna York (NP)	95576
MAGLANQUE, Rene (NPC)	29407
SONZA, Jose (Ind)	951
TARUC, Reynaldo (PMP)	80

TARLAC

(Comelec as of 11 am, 181 precincts)	
Governor	
CALMA, Ernesto (Ind)	20
COJUANGCO, Jose Jr. (Kampi)	11019
YAP, Victor (NPC)	8552
ESPINA, Ernesto (PMP)	50
Vice Governor	
AGANON, Marcelino Jr. (NPC)	10791
ROY, Rey (Kampi)	8084
Congressman (1st district)	
MANUEL, Lucio (Kampi)	231
PRIETO-TEODORO, Monica Louise (NPC)	13755
MAURICIO, Leny (Ind)	224

ZAMBALES

(PPCRV as of 9.30 am, in 4 towns)	
Governor	
MAGSAYSAY, Jesus Vicente (Lakas)	14507
DELOSO, Amor (LP)	31283
TORRES, Ruben (Kampi)	7196
PASCUA, Teofilo (Ind)	3
Vice Governor	
ABASTA, Sancho (Lakas)	6032
DOMRANG, Maming (NPC)	6
MAGSALIN, Buenaventura (PMP)	20962
GORDON, Anne Marie (LP)	23762

CALABARZON

BATANGAS

(Namfrel as of 10 am, 1169 precincts)	
Governor	
SANTOS-RECTO, Rosa Vilma (Lakas)	136905
SANARES, Nestor (PMP)	10552
SANCHEZ, Armando (Kampi)	96482
MANDANAS, Marcos Sr. (Ind)	1655
Vice Governor	
BUSTAMANTE, Praxedes (Ind)	750
DE LEON, Christopher (UNO)	43519
ERMITA, Edwin (Lakas)	92524
LEVISTE, Jose Antonio II (Kampi)	90630
MAGSOMBOL, Fortunata (KBL)	515
Congressman (1st district)	
ERMITA-BUHAIN, Elenita (Lakas)	57104
APACIBLE, Raymund (UNO)	30457
Congressman (2nd district)	
GUTIERREZ, Luis (Ind)	102
CABIGAO, Orestes (Lakas)	12394
MANDANAS, Hermilando (LP)	43687
MENDOZA, Edgar (Kampi)	7453
Congressman (4th district)	
SABILI, Meynardo (Ind)	17981
MENDOZA, Mark Llandro (NPC)	18800
RECTO, Richard (UNO)	3673
LIPA CITY	
(PPCRV as of 4:48 p.m., 534 precincts)	
Mayor	
AFRICA, Eric (Kampi)	15500
GOZOS, Oscar (Lakas)	54411
PANGANIBAN, Mario (PMP)	8022

CAVITE

(PPCRV as of 4 p.m.)	
Governor	
MALIKSI, Ireneo (LP)	38694
GADANG, Arsenio (Ind)	1214
Vice Governor	
CAMPAÑA, Dencito (LP)	27123
Congressman (1st district)	
ABAYA, Joseph Emilio (LP)	3959
BERADO, Gerbi (Ind)	1
CASTILLO, Jessie (LDP)	1561
JATSON, Jose Herminio	10
Congressman (2nd district)	
BARZAGA, Elpidio Jr. (LP)	13288
CALE, Franklin (Ind)	138
REMULLA, Gilbert (NP)	16505
Congressman (3rd district)	
CAUSAREN, Vivencio (Ind)	8
REMULLA, Jesus Crispin (NPC)	5029
DE CASTRO, Armando (LP)	1416

LAGUNA

(PPCRV as of 3.58 p.m.)	
Governor	
LAZARO, Teresita (Lakas)	78082
OLIVAREZ, Edwin (UNO)	76731
Vice Governor	
HERNANDEZ, Ramil (UNO)	75323
SISON, Raul Marco (Lakas)	55137
Congressman (1st district)	
ALATIIT, Gabnulang (PMP)	3181
FERNANDEZ, Danilo Ramon (UND)	25494
JOAQUIN, Nereo Raymund Jr. (Lakas)	14487
PATROMO, Libreto (Ind)	131
VIERNEZA, Felicisimo (Ind)	7829
Congressman (2nd district) (PPCRV as of 11pm)	
CHIPECO, Justin Mark (NP)	4312
TAPIA, Susano (Ind)	701
Congressman (3rd district) (PPCRV as of 3:58 pm)	
ALAVA, Adoracion (Kampi)	5182
AMANTE, Damaso (Ind)	2694
AQUINO, Florante (Lakas)	22754
ARAGO, Maria Evita (LP)	27660
ATIENZA, Andrew (Ind)	594
GAPANGADA, Arcadio Najle (NPC)	22660
VELASCO, Enrico (Kampi)	2740
Congressman (4th district) (PPCRV as of 11 pm)	
AGARAO, Benjamin Jr. (LP)	23063
LAGUMBAY, Eufemio (Lakas)	5591
SAN LUIS, Edgar (Ind)	21565
SAN PABLO CITY	
(PPCRV as of 4:49 pm)	
Mayor	
AMANTE, Vicente (NPC/LDP/Aksyon Demokratiko)	49701
BUESER, Danton (LP)	27144
COSICO, Alfredo (Ind)	708

QUEZON

(Namfrel as of 12 noon)	
Governor	
NANTES, Rafael (LP)	103057
SUAREZ, David (Kampi)	112513
Vice Governor	
PORTES, Carlos (Kampi)	120210
RODRIGUEZ, Eduardo (LP)	71807
Congressman (1st district)	
LLAMAS, Fernando (LP)	7081
PASAMBA, Eladio (LAKAS CMD)	11478
ENVERGA, Mark (KAMPI)	21647
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALCALA, Proceso (LP)	85216
ALVAREZ, Liza (KAMPI)	34658
Congressman (3rd district)	
REYES, Victor (LP)	3984
SUAREZ, Danilo (KAMPI)	13406
Congressman (4th district)	
MALITE, Narciso (LAKAS CMD)	4429
TAÑADA, Lorenzo (LP)	22716
RABAYA, Vicente Sr. (NPC)	2766
CITY OF LUCENA	
Mayor	
ALCALA, Roderick (LP)	20927
TALAGA, Ramon Jr. (Kampi)	30680

MIMAROPA

MARINDUQUE

(Namfrel as of 9 a.m., 136 precincts)	
Governor (Namfrel as of 9am)	
CARRION, Jose Antonio (Ind)	7961
DAQUIDAG, Narciso (Ind)	2605
GO, Melecio (Kampi)	3073
MORALES, Percival (Lakas)	3792
RED, Wilfredo (UNO)	-4571
Vice Governor	
PALMA, Leandro (Lakas)	7720
PIZARRO, Tomas (Kampi)	9689
Congressman	
ALIÑO, Santiago (Ind)	463
LIM, James (Ind)	13646
REYES, Carmencita (Lakas)	8357

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

(Namfrel as of 11 a.m. 70 percent of precincts)	
Governor (Namfrel as of 11 am)	
SATO, Josephine (NPC)	52496
OMANIO, Ronnie (Ind)	35710
Congressman	
VILLAROSA, Ma. Amelita (Kampi)	48260
JARAVATA, Ernesto (NPC)	34586
ARRIOLA, Pete (UNO)	1509
PIMENTEL, Samloen Sr. (PMP)	171
MAMBURAO (Mayor)	
VILLAROSA, Voltaire Anthony (Kampi)	4473
PANALIGAN, Joel (UNO)	4808
LEGASPI, Fe (NPC)	1413

ORIENTAL MINDORO

(Namfrel as of 12 noon, 1145 merged precincts)	
Governor	
PANALIGAN, Arnan (Lakas)	108209
MARASIGAN, Murphy (PMP)	49903
Congressman (1st district)	
VALENCIA, Rodolfo (Lakas)	58094
LEVISTE, Renato (NPC)	49070
DELOS REYES, Pol Alzona (Ind)	1151
Congressman (2nd district)	
SALCEDO, Margaux Marie (PMP)	18811
UMALI, Alfonso (LP)	39750
CALAPAN CITY	
(Namfrel as of 7:50 a.m., 152 merged precincts)	
REPIZO, Gilbert (KAMPI)	2855
RAMIREZ, Gil (LDP)	7820
LEACHON, Paulino (Liberal)	9808
PARAS, Roberto (LAKAS-CMD)	9466

PALAWAN

(Namfrel as of 10 a.m., 173 precincts)	
Governor	
REYES, Mario Joel (Lakas)	13795
ACOSTA, Andrie (Ind)	314
KATON, Edmundo (Ind)	32
Vice Governor	
PONCE DE LEON, David (NPC)	13438
Congressman (2nd district)	
MITRA, Abraham Kahlil (NPC)	11536
LOPEZ, Richard (Ind)	37
MORALES, Christopher (Ind)	51
LAGASCA, Raymundo Jr. (LP)	3047
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY	
Mayor	
HAGEDORN, Edward (Kampi)	10670
MATILLANO, Eduardo (Kampi)	4801

ROMBLON

(Nassa-Namfrel as of 4 p.m., 95 percent of precincts)	
Governor	
BELTRAN, Natalio Jr. (Lakas)	41736
GAAN, Telesforo (Ind)	2560
GUTIERREZ, Armando (Kampi)	29905
MARAVILLA, Venizar (UNO)	5790
ROMERO, Samuel (Ind)	12170
Vice Governor	
FETALVERO, Alicia	44703
FONDEVILLA, Andres (Lakas)	39552
Congressman	
CABRERA, Jose Cesar (UNO)	1133
FIRMALO, Eduardo (Kampi)	46578
MADRONA, Eleandro (Lakas)	53348

BICOL REGION

ALBAY

(PPCRV, as of 1 p.m., 442 precincts)	
Governor	
BICHARA, Stephen(Ind)	3266
GONZALEZ, Fernando (Lakas)	22835
QUIAPON, Abdel Noel	4089
SALCEDA, Jose Ma. Clemente (Ind)	24591
Congressman (1st district)	
(PPCRV, as of 4 p.m., 95 percent)	
BOLO, Jose (Ind)	49
CALISIN, Jesus (UNO)	15525
LAGMAN, Castelar (Lakas)	28383
Congressman (2nd district)	
(PPCRV as of 1 p.m. 442 precincts)	
APIN, Amelia Bonita (UNO)	9032
BICHARA, Al Francis (NP)	14997
IMPERIAL, Carlos (Lakas)	12786
MERCADER, Noel (Ind)	1025
LEGAZPI CITY	
(PPCRV as of 1 p.m.)	
Mayor	
IMPERIAL, Michael Victor (NPC)	6777
ROSAL, Noel (Lakas)	7930
VALENCIA, Reynaldo (Ind)	33
*DARAGA *(PPCRV as of 1 p.m.)*	
Mayor	
JAUCIAN, Gerry	4898
MACASINAG, Onorfe	87
TRIUMFANTE, Cicero	4778
LIGAO CITY	
(Namfrel as of 11:30 a.m.)	
GONZALEZ, Linda	18024
QUIAPON, Renato	13073
TABACO CITY	
(PPCRV as of 4 p.m. 95 percent of precincts)	
Mayor	
LAGMAN-LUISTRO, Cielo Krisel (Lakas)	26642
ROCHA, Oscar (UNO)	9557

CAMARINES SUR

(Namfrel as of 2.30 p.m., 8476 precincts)	
Governor	
PILAPIL, Eduardo P. (Kampi)	55737
VILLAFUERTE, Luis Raymund Jr. F. (Lakas-CMD)	144938
Congressman (1st district)	
ARROYO, Diosdado Ignacio Jose Maria M. (Kampi)	66556
MABULO, Sabas M. (LP/UNO)	41248
Congressman (3rd district)	
BOMBASE, Elmo (Kampi)	2565
FUENTEBELLA, Arnulfo (NPC)	6321
PILAPIL, Procio (LDP) (withdraw)	163
Congressman (4th district)	
ALFELOR, Felix Jr. (Kampi)	23434
BELZA, Diones (Lakas)	5439

MASBATE

(PPCRV as of 10.30 am, 1177 precincts)	
Governor	
ESPINOSA, Emilio Jr. (NPC)	60692
KHO, Olga (Lakas)	64413
SAÑANO, Armando (Kampi)	4648
Vice Governor	
ESPINOSA, Nanette (NPC)	28447
FERNANDEZ, Merlene (Ind)	3547
GADIA, Ruperto (Ind)	2405
REVIL, Vicente (Ind)	40967
VALDEMORO, Herminio	21195
Congressman (1st district)	
BAGALIHOG, Nonilon (PDSP)	80
BRAVO, Narciso Jr. (Kampi)	14712
BUTALID, Rainier (Ind)	12560

SORSOGON

(Namfrel as of 12 noon)	
Governor	
ESCUDERO, Antonio (UNO)	3386
HAMOR, Edwin (NP)	14855
LEE, Inocencio Jr. (Ind)	109
LEE, Sally (Lakas)	15832
Vice Governor	
DERI, Oscar	10745
LAURUNARIA, Renato	13851
Congressman (1st District)	
BALMACEDA, Cesar (Ind)	4137
BAÑARES, Jerry (Kampi)	665
DINEROS, Daniel (Ind)	20
DURAN, Jose Vicente (Lakas)	6690
ESCUDERO, Salvador III (UNO)	12069
OCAMPO, Isagani (Ind)	163
Congressman (2nd district)	
DE CASTRO, Alex (Ind)	41
GOLPEO, Edna (Ind)	20
GOLPEO, Ricardo (NPC)	2480
GONZALES, Rodolfo (PDP-Laban)	2552
RAMOS, Cyril (UNO)	1277
SOLIS, Jose (Kampi)	1448
SORSOGON CITY	
Mayor	
AQUINO, Rebecca (LP)	760
CHUA, Roman (Ind)	771
DELGADO, Rosalio Jr. (Ind)	613
DIONEDA, Leovic (UNO/NP)	14086
RODRIGUEZA, Robert (Lakas)	10157

WESTERN VISAYAS

AKLAN

(COMELEC, as of 2 p.m., 200 of 1,322 precincts)	
Governor	
GALVAN, Kareen	560
GARCIA, Ma. Bettina	13,790
MARQUEZ, Carlito	33,614
RAMOS, Victoria	34,048
Vice Governor	
CALIZO, Gabrielle	48,183
TOLENTINO, Ronquillo	36,563
Congressman	
MIRAFLORES, Florencio	54,422
ACEVEDO, Anthony	16 943

ANTIQUE

(COMELEC, as of 3 p.m.; 167 of 1,183 precincts)	
Governor	
PACIFICADOR, Arturo (KBL)	2,855
PEREZ, Salvacion (NPC)	7,682
PLAMERAS, Jovito Jr. (Lakas)	3,987
Vice Governor	
CADIAO, Rhodora J. (Lakas-CMD)	6,819
FORNIER, Francisco X. (Independent)	75
TE, Mary Jean N. (NPC)	6,171
Congressman (lone)	
DELFIN, Robert (PDSP)	7,556
JAVIER, Exequiel (Lakas)	6,635
MALLARES, Narzal (PMP)	513
VILLAFLOR, Antero (Ind)	29

CAPIZ

(COMELEC, as of 4 p.m.)	
Governor	
TANCO, Vic (LP)	351
AMOROSO, Zenon (Ind)	12
Vice Governor	
BARREDO, Felipe	276
Congressman (first district)	
CELINO, Angel Alan (Kampi)	1.007
DEL ROSARIO, Antonio (LP)	953

GUIMARAS

(COMELEC, as of 3.30 p.m.; 13,188 of 16,364 voters)	
Governor	
MIAQUE, Bernie (Kampi)	5,000
NAVA, Felipe (Kampi)	12,318
Vice-Governor	
JABASA, Edgardo A. (Lakas-CMD)	4,850
TIONADO, Aurelio G. (Kampi)	10,840
Congressman	
ESPINOSA, Edgar (Lakas)	8,045
NAVA, Joaquin Carlos Rahman (NPC/Kampi)	10,353

ILOILO

(NAMFREL as of 5 a.m., 903 out of 1,144 precincts)	
ILOILO CITY	
Congressman	
GONZALES, Raul Jr. (Lakas)	64,921
MALABOR, Mansueto (PDP-Laban)	23,936
GENGOS, Vicente (LP)	28,906
Mayor	
TREÑAS, Jerry (Lakas)	102,740
ALIM, Joshua (PDP-Laban)	16666
GAJE, Juanito	50
Vice-Mayor	
MABILOG, Jed Patrick E. (Lakas-CMD)	104,385
PORRAS, Winstone T. (PDP-Laban)	7,134

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

(COMELEC as of 5 p.m.)	
Governor (159 of 10,313 precincts)	
MARAÑON, Joseph (NPC)	19,298
TRIBACO, Luisito (KBL)	78
VALLADAREZ, German (Ind)	135
Vice-Governor (159 of 10,313 precincts)	
ZAYCO, Pedro (Unopposed) Lakas-CMD	9462
Congressman (1st district) (79 precincts)	
CARMONA, Tranquilino (NPC)	1764
LIBRANSO, Ernesto (PMP)	33
LEDESMA, Julio IV (Lakas)	4612
Congressman (4th district) (101 precincts)	
CAMPOSANO, Jorge (KBL)	664
FERRER, Jeffrey (NPC)	7981
Congressman (6th district) (79 precincts)	
ALVAREZ, Genaro Rafael III (UNA)	4824
DABAO, Jesus Manuel (LP)	1178
BACOLOD CITY	
(NAMFREL, 212 of 1,181 precincts)	
Congressman	
DESTACAMENTO, Dante (Ind)	940
HAGAD, Andres (Ind)	16,058
NOVERO, Renocito (NPC)	53,476
PARRENO, Philien (Ind)	793
PUENTEVELLA, Monico (Lakas)	54,705
TEMPLADO, Marcos (Ind)	249
Mayor	
BERDIN, Jovito (Ind)	813
CALAGUING, Alberto (Ind)	94
DOJILLO, Joel (Ind)	2,279
LEONARDIA, Evelio (NPC)	77,703
PONTERAS, Vicente (LP)	6,387
VALDEZ, Luzviminda (Lakas)	38,652
VERDEFLOR, Oscar (Ind)	2,486
Vice Mayor	
CAÑA, Lyndon (Independent)	45,775
SAYSON, Jude Thaddeus (NPC)	60,483
SY, Elmer (Lakas CMD)	26,071
TINGSON, Abraham (Independent)	544

CENTRAL VISAYAS

BOHOL (NAMFREL)

Governor (as of 9 45 a.m., 1,420 of 3,263 precincts)	
AUMENTADO, Erico (Lakas)	174,826
CERICOS, Roberto (PDP-Laban)	4,472
DEJAN, Sixto (PDP-Laban)	525
DALAY, Renato (Ind)	2911
DUMALUAN, Teofanes (Ind)	672
MAGAT, Mario Jr. (Ind)	3,007
PELIGRINO, Peter (Ind)	155
Vice Governor	
(as of 9:45 a.m.; 1,420 of 3,263 precincts)	
HERRERA, Julius Caesar	133,612
TIROL, Godofreda	46,718
Congressman (1st district)	
(as of noon; 677 of 1,044 precincts)	
CHATTO, Edgardo (NPC)	79,402
DELA SERNA, Victor (PDP-Laban)	10,206
Congressman (2nd district)	
(as of noon; 316 of 1,074 precincts)	
CAJES, Roberto (Lakas)	32,703
GARCIA, Wenceslao (PDP-Laban)	1,854
Congressman (3rd district)	
(as of noon; 429 of 1,145 precincts)	
JALA, Adam Relson (Lakas)	20,755
RELAMPAGOS, Rene (LDP)	23,477
BALITE, Dionisio (Kampi)	12,149
INTE, Victoriano (Ind)	57
LIM, Alexander (Aksyon Demokratiko)	6,108
MANDERA, Rigoberto (Ind)	101
TAGBILARAN CITY (as of 9:45 a.m.)	
Mayor	
LIM, Dan (NPC)	16,185
TORRALBA, Jose (Lakas)	12,607
Vice-Mayor (as of 9:45 a.m., 233 of 237 precincts)	
TIROL-MONTES, Nuevas (NPC)	12855
VELOSO, Jose Antonio (Lakas)	15206

CEBU

(C-Cimpel, as of 3.10 p.m.)	
Governor (1,433 of 11,047 precincts)	
GARCIA, Gwendolyn (Kampi)	113,215
LEJARDE, Rolando (Ind)	611
OSMEÑA, Mary Joyce (Ind)	3,110
YAPHA, Antonio Jr. (PDSP)	38,695
Vice Governor (1,433 of 11,047 precincts)	
MARTINEZ, Clavel	42,055
SANCHEZ, Gregorio	99,261
Congressman (1st district) (506 of 1,739 precincts)	
ADLAWAN, Ricardo (Ind)	449
BOLOGAITA, Alex (Promdi)	182
CONCEPCION, Felipe (Ind)	1070
GULLAS, Eduardo (Kampi)	47389
RAMA, Enrique (UNO)	4207
Congressman (2nd district) (23 of 1,775 precincts)	
ABINES, Crisologo (GO)	160
CAMASURA, Franklin (Ind)	6
GARCIA, Pablo (Kampi)	1207
KINTANAR, Carmiano (Lakas/NPC)	232
LOZADA, Jose Mari (Lakas-PMP-KBL)	1
Congressman (3rd district) (4 of 1,741 precincts)	
GARCIA, Pablo John (Kampi)	182
YAPHA, Estrella (Lakas)	207
Congressman (4th district) (146 of 1,639 precincts)	
MARTINEZ, Celestino III (Lakas)	4207
SALIMBANGON, Benhur (Kampi)	6998
MARTINEZ, Edillo	38
Congressman (6th district) (794 of 2,377 precincts)	
SOON-RUIZ, Nerissa (Kampi)	42,293
QUISUMBING, Gabriel Luis (Lakas)	39,120
DELA SERNA, Vicente (Ind)	8729
CEBU CITY	
Congressman (1st District) (751 of 1,183 precincts)	
DEL MAR, Raul (Lakas-BOPK)	76,135
VILLARIN, Florencio (GO)	4,486
ARENASA, Juan (Ind)	540
Congressman (2nd District) (838 of 1,830 precincts)	
CUENCO, Antonio (Lakas-BOPK)	40,775
GUARDO, Jonathan (GO)	30,571
Mayor (1,589 of 3,013 precincts)	
OSMEÑA, Tomas (BOPK)	101,675
DELOS SANTOS, Mary Ann (GO)	59,865
Vice-Mayor (1,589 of 3,013 precincts)	
ABANGAN, Critillo F. (Independent)	594
GARCIA, Raymond Alvin N. (Uno-Kusog)	43,048
RAMA, Michael L. (BOPK-Lakas-CMD)	113.951

NEGROS ORIENTAL

(NAMFREL, as of 10.43 a.m., 303 of 348 precincts)	
GOVERNOR	
MARCIAS, Emilio II C.	31,646
TORRES, Samuel B.	1264
VICE GOVERNOR	
BALDADO, Jose A.	30,199
CONGRESSMAN (2nd DISTRICT)	
ANIÑON, Raul Sllorio	382
ARNAIZ, George P.	29,899
MONTAÑO, Ramon E.	4,014
DUMAGUETE CITY	
Mayor	
GUARIN, Ardelio (Ind)	343
UMBAC, Arturo (UNO)	15,992
PERDICES, Agustin	20,802
Vice Mayor	
ERAMES, Arturo J. (Independent)	2,554
MAQUILING, Woodrow S. Sr. (Liberal)	18,379
ABLONG, William E. (Lakas-Kasalgan)	15,696

SIQUIJOR

(COMELEC, complete 288 precincts)	
Governor	
AQUINO, Ben (UNO/PMP)	9074
FUA, Orlando Jr. (Lakas)	34427
Vice Governor	
CORTES, Andre Jesu E. (Lakas CMD)	29029
LUMINGKIT, Ulysses C. (PDSP)	9143
Congressman (lone)	
FLOR, Jesus (Ind)	73
FUA, Orlando (Lakas)	30380
GANHINHIN, Carl Mark (LDP)	14109

EASTERN VISAYAS

BILIRAN

(NAMFREL, as of 11 a.m., 8 towns)	
Governor	
ALMADRO, Ruben (LP)	7,284
AMBE, Edgardo (Ind)	115
ESPINA, Rogelio (Lakas)	16,533
Vice Governor	
CURSO Lucila (LakasCMD)	11,289
JARO, Chris (Independent- LP)	4,278
MADERAZO, Melchor (Independent)	4,091
Congressman (lone)	
CHONG, Glenn (LP)	36,097
ESPINA, Gerardo Sr. (Kampi)	30,356
VISBAL, Robert (Ind)	11

EASTERN SAMAR

(NAMFREL, as of noon, 89 of 371 precincts)	
Governor	
CARMENFORTE, Camilo (UNO-GO)	11,462
EVARDONE, Ben (Lakas)	47,641
Vice Governor	
ANASABIAS, Rudulfo	6,272
GELI, Leander	41,063
Congressman (lone)	
COQUILLA, Teodulo (PMP-UNO)	32,430
DOCENA, Agustin (UNO-GO)	753
LIBANAN, Elda (Lakas)	31.716

SOUTHERN LEYTE

(COMELEC, final)	
Governor	
LERIAS, Marisa (NPC)	29,767
MERCADO, Damian (Lakas)	33,532
Vice Governor	
MAAMO, Miguel II (Lakas-CMD)	27,801
TUMOL, Eva (NPC)	30,089
Congressman (lone)	
CASTAÑARES, Roberto (LP)	31,903
MERCADO, Roger (Lakas)	33,322
MAASIN CITY	
Mayor	
LERIAS, Rosolte (NPC)	8,940
SAMACO, Maloney (Lakas)	7,878
Vice Mayor	
ABIERA, Marie Ellie (Lakas-CMD)	8,808
BASCUG, Arturo (NPC)	6,523

NORTHERN MINDANAO

BUKIDNON

(Namfrel as of 12.30 pm)	
Governor	
ACOSTA, Nereus Jr. (LP)	25510
ZUBIRI, Jose Ma. Jr. (Lakas)	78266
Vice Governor (Namfrel as of 12:30 pm)	
CALINGASAN, Alex (Lakas)	71003
DOYDORA, Ricardo (LP)	9283
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 12:30 pm)	
ACOSTA, Ma. Lourdes (LP)	27769
GARCILLANO, Virgilio (Ind)	17129
PANCRUDO, Candido Jr. (Lakas)	26936
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Namfrel as of 12:30 pm)	
ARTACHO, Mario Gerardo (LP)	551
BIOCO, Roderico (Kampi)	12339
GALARIO, Glen (Kampi)	6416
GUINGONA, Teofisto III (NPC/UNO)	11132
TABIOS, Ernesto (Ind)	
Congressman (3rd district)	
(Namfrel as of 12:30 pm)	
GARDONES, Fabian (PMP)	1265
ZUBIRI, Jose Ma. III (Lakas)	21385
MALAYBALAY CITY	
(Comelec as of 2:30 pm)	
Mayor	
FLORES, Florencio Jr. (Lakas)	29533
VALLEJOS, Aldrin (Ind)	432

DAVAO DEL SUR

Governor (Namfrel as of 9:35 am, 127 precincts)	
BAUSTISTA, Claude (NPC)	36738
CAGAS, Douglas	55954
VILLAMOR, Rosemarie	324
Vice Governor (Namfrel as of 9:35 am, 127 precincts)	
LATASA, Simplicio (NPC)	36738
RENOVILLA, Ida (Lakas)	23158
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 9:35 am, 127 precincts)	
CAGAS, March Douglas (Lakas)	37312
CARILLO, Dominador (Ind)	250
GARCIA, Romualdo (NPC)	14424
KING, Wilhelmina (Ind)	163
LLANOS, Nonito (PDSP)	16921
VILLABER, Pablo (PMP)	3123

DAVAO ORIENTAL

Governor (PPCRV as of 2 55 pm, 637 precincts)	
MALANYAON, Corazon (Kampi)	25909
PALMA GIL, Maria Elena (Lakas)	15618
Congressman (1st district)	
(PPCRV as of 2:55 pm, 637 precincts)	
DAYANGHIRANG, Nelson (Kampi)	5976
INOB, Nelson (Ind)	
PALMA GIL, Maria Sophia (Lakas)	5488
Congressman (2nd district)	
(PPCRV as of 2:55 pm, 637 precincts)	
ALMARIO, Thelma (Lakas)	14854
RABAT, Carlo Luis (LDP)	13469

SOCCSKSARGEN

SOUTH COTABATO

Governor (Namfrel as of 4 pm, 36 precincts)	
FUENTES, Daisy (NPC)	44173
Vice Governor	
OGENA, Elorio	40866
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 10:18 am, 893 precincts)	
ANTONINO-CUSTODIO, Darlene (NPC)	60117
PACQUIAO, Manny	34376
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Namfrel as of 4 pm, 36 precincts)	
PINGOY, Arthur (NPC)	24113
DE PEDRO, Hilario	23835
GENERAL SANTOS CITY	
Mayor (Namfrel as of 10:18 am, 893 precincts)	
ACHARON, Pedro	38535
NUÑEZ, Rosalita	24165
COTABATO CITY	
Mayor	
(Namfrel as of 7 am, 223 out of 564 election returns)	
SEMA, Muslimin (Lakas)	22578
JULIANO, Estrellita Neng (PMP)	5787
DILANGALEN, Bai Sendig (NPC)	15332
CANDAO, Samad (Ind)	
IBRAHIM, Habib (Ind)	

ARMM

SHARIFF KABUNSUAN (NEW)

Congressman (lone)	
(Namfrel as of 7am, 223 out of 564 election returns)	
DILANGALEN, Didagen (NPC)	24960
SEMA, Bai Sandra (Lakas)	14956

MAGUINDANAO

Governor	
AMPATUAN, Andal Sr.	Winner
Vice Governor	
AMPATUAN, Sajid Islam	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
DATUMANONG, Simeon	Winner

CARAGA

AGUSAN DEL NORTE

Governor (Comelec as of 11 am)	
AMANTE, Erlpe John (Kampi)	30761
PLAZA, Valentina (Lakas)	22616
Vice Governor (Comelec as of 11 am)	
CORVERA, Enrico (Kampi)	26131
LIBARIOS, Arcedel (Lakas)	20540
Congressman (1st district) (Comelec as of 11 am)	
AQUINO, Jose II (Lakas)	35582
CALO, Angelo (Ind)	17501
JIMENEZ, Angelo (Kampi)	28310
PLAZA, Charito (UNO)	16682
VILLACASTIN, Felix (Ind)	652
Congressman (2nd district) (Comelec as of 11 am)	
AMANTE, Edelmiro (Kampi)	32060
LOMONSOD, Jorge (Ind)	715
PLAZA, Democrito Alberto III (Lakas)	18791
BUTUAN CITY	
Mayor (Comelec as of 11 am)	
EMBOY, Teodoro (Ind)	493
MATBA, Ma. Angelica (Kampi)	56613
PASCUAL, Sergio (UNO)	6071
PLAZA, Democrito II (Lakas)	61301

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

Governor (Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
BARBERS, Robert Ace (Lakas)	25779
NAPULI, Felimon (Partido Padajon Surigao)	6540
ORQUINA, Danilo (Kampi)	5528
VILLAR, Simante (Ind)	16
Vice Governor (Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
CATRE, Noel (Lakas)	14258
CONGRESO, Lauris (Partido Padajon Surigao)	989
ECLEO, Alan (NPC)	12667
NAVARRO, Rodolfo (Kampi)	4733
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
MATUGAS, Francisco (Kampi)	9795
NAVARRO, Wenelisa (Ind)	3687
RAVELO, Marino (UNO)	48
TARUC, Dominador (Ind)	3660
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
ANDANAR, Wencelito (Kampi)	1940
BARBERS, Robert Lyndon (Lakas)	18470
LAGO, Pepito (UNO)	243
PRESTON, Michael (Ind)	12
RAFOLS, Roldan (Ind)	24
ROMARATE, Guillermo Jr. (Partido Padajon Surigao)	17209
SURIGAO CITY	
Mayor (Namfrel as of 12nn, 254 precincts)	
CASURRA, Alfonso (Ind)	20493
MATUGAS, Ernesto (Partido Padajon Surigao)	19487

SURIGAO DEL SUR

Governor (Comelec as of 11 am, 234 precincts)	
PIMENTEL, Vicente Jr. (Lakas)	30290
SALGADO, Elpidio (PMP)	366
Vice Governor (Comelec as of 11 am, 234 precincts)	
NAVARRO, Librado (Lakas)	27020
Congressman (1st district)	
(Comelec as of 11 am, 234 precincts)	
AZARCON, Antonio (PDP-Laban)	1582
MURILLO, Gregorio (Ind)	8257
PICHAY, Philip (Lakas)	22150

COMPILED BY INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON: DESIREE CALUZA, BEN MOSES EBREO, MELVIN GASCON, GABRIEL CARDINOZA, ELMER KRISTIAN DAUIGOY, LEONCIO BALBIN JR., FRANK DELMAR CARIÑO, IAN SORIANO, DARYL DAUDEN, GOBLETH MOULIC; INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON: JO MARTINEZ-CLEMENTE, TONETTE OREJAS, CESAR VILLA; INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU: DELFIN MALLARI JR., MARLON LUISTRO, JUN VIROLA, ROMULO PONTE, ROBERT BAGALAY, EPHRAIM AGUILAR, MADONNA VIROLA, EZREN DOMETITA, MA. CHIELU ABARQUEZ, JASON OPEÑA, ANNIELYN BALEZA; INQUIRER VISAYAS BUREAU: NESTOR BURGOS JR., HAZEL VILLA, MA. DIOSA LABISTE, CARLA GOMEZ, ROMY AMARADO, JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN, BERNADETTE PARCO, FELIPE CELINO, CYRAIN CABUENAS, GRACE PECAOCO, MARVI BENEDICTO, FARRAH TURA, ALEXANDRA JACA; INQUIRER MINDANAO BUREAU: GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN, ALVIN AÑONUEVO, NASH MAULANA, EDWIN FERNANDEZ, CHARLIE SEÑASE, FERDINAND ZUASOLA, DONDON DINOY, AQUILES ZONIO, JOSELLE BADILLA, JEOFFREY MAITEM, FRANKLIN CALIGUID, DOMINADOR TARUC; INQUIRER RESEARCH: CYRIL BONABENTE, LAWRENCE DE GUZMAN, CHONA GALANG, MARICAR TOLOSA

Late SPORTS

Realtors slip past Dragons; Pals up

STA. LUCIA import Jamaal Williams makes like a magician in trying to control the loose ball against Welcoat import Wayland White. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAME TODAY (*The Arena in San Juan*)
7 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Coca-Cola

By Musong R. Castillo

NORMAN GONZALES HIT two triples inside the first two minutes of the second overtime last night and led Sta. Lucia to a tough 112-104 decision of Welcoat in the Fiesta Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

The win could lift the Realtors past the eliminations as they pulled ahead of the newcomer Dragons by two games at 5-9. Both clubs have four games left in their respective schedules.

Gonzales had open looks in his triple tries with the back-breaker coming with 3:05 left as the 6-foot-4 forward beat the shot clock with a heave from right quarter court.

"We're aiming for fifth place (after the eliminations)," rookie coach Boyet Fernandez, who won back-to-back games for the first time in his young career, said. "If not, I'd still be happy for as long as we keep playing together."

Yancy de Ocampo hit nine points in the fourth quarter of the second game, including two triples of his own that boosted Talk 'N Text to a 116-115 nail-biter over the Air21 Express.

De Ocampo went on to finish with 25 points like Mark Cardona for the Phone Pals, who put themselves in the mix in the fight for an outright semifinal slot after rising to 8-6.

The Express, meanwhile, bungled their chance to gain a share of the lead with idle Barangay Ginebra and dropped into a second place tie with Red Bull and Alaska at 9-5.

Welcoat had possession in the waning seconds of the regulation and the first extension. But Denver Lopez made bad decisions each time as the Dragons dropped to 3-11 and stood in danger of getting the boot.

Gonzales went on to finish with 19 points built around a 4-of-6 clip from beyond trifectaville.

Import Jamaal Williams worked his way to a quiet 37 points and 17 rebounds, while hard-working Nelbert Omolon finished with 26 and 10.

Sta. Lucia's super rookie Kelly Williams finished with just eight points, the first time in this tournament that he failed to contribute in twin digits. He shot just 1-of-7 from two-point zone but had a career-high 17 rebounds.

Wayland White scattered 33 points and had 13 boards to pace the Dragons, while Alex Compton finished with 18.

Welcoat had possession with still 11.5 seconds remaining in regulation and the chance to break an 89-all tie forged by Rob Wainwright with a triple entering the final two minutes.

But instead of attacking the basket, Lopez dribbled away some of the time and then was fouled with only 4.5 seconds left on the clock.

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 112—J. Williams 37, Omolon 26, Gonzales 19, K. Williams 8, Miranda 8, Isip 4, Bughao 3, Aquino 3, Calil 2, Espino 2, Ramos 0, Mendoza 0.

WELCOAT 104—White 33, Compton 18, Reyes 12, Wainwright 12, Lopez 11, Sta. Maria 9, Cabatu 5, Ibañez 4, Baguion 0, Lao 0.

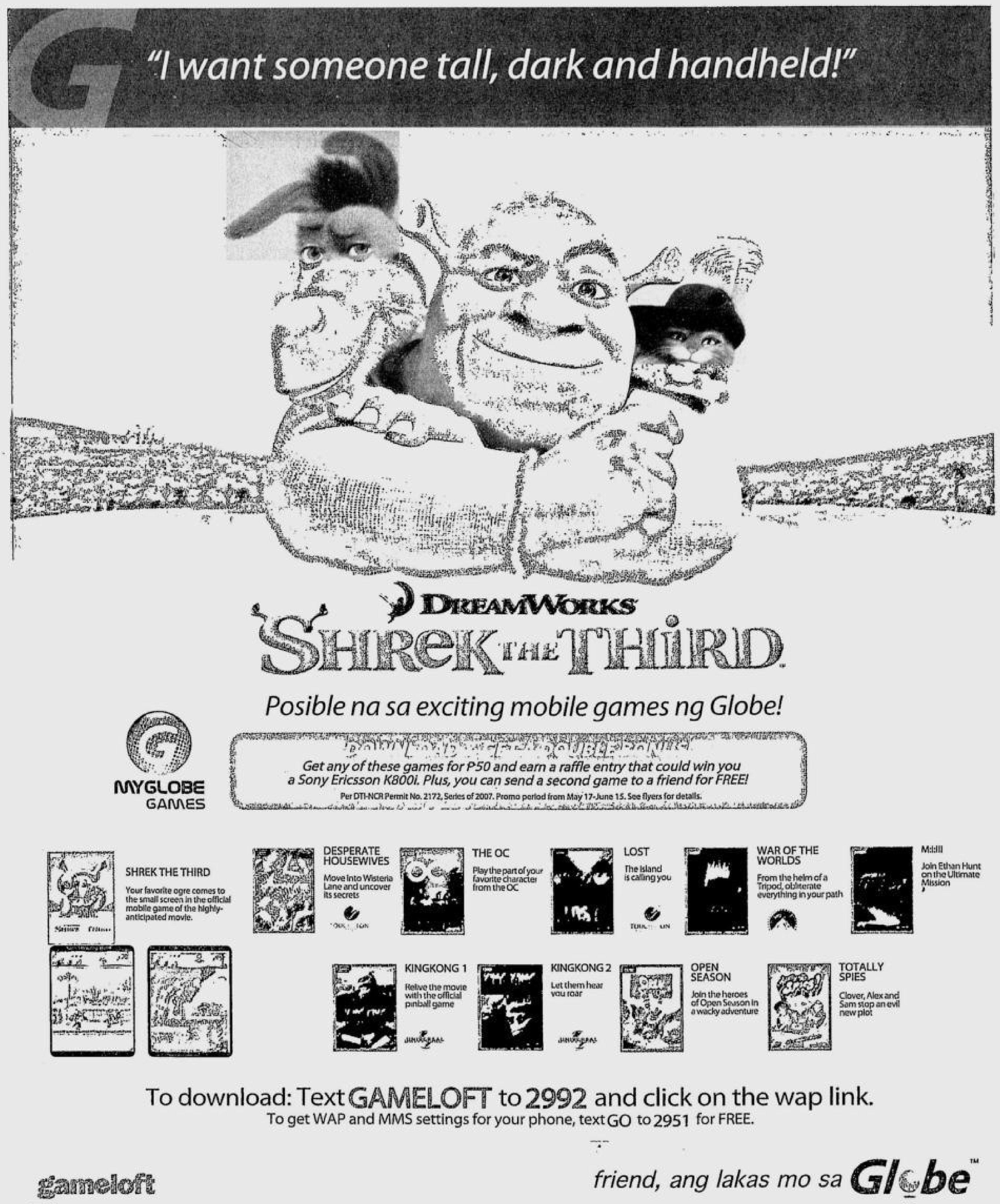
Quarters: 25-27, 49-50, 69-71, 89-all, 97-all, 112-104

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 116—Cardona 25, De Ocampo 25, Sullingar 21, Carey 16, Belano 11, Washington 10, Allado 4, Billones 3, Pablo 0.

AIR21 115—David 29, Daniels 22, Arboleda 17, Telan 16, Canaleta 9, Torion 7, Santos 6, Dimaunahan 5, Se 4, Andaya 0.

Quarters: 24-19, 51-41, 80-73, 116-115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Still no Chinese coaches for RP Olympians

By June Navarro

EVERY NEED OF THE NATIONAL ATHLETES who will undergo overseas training has been addressed except for one crucial component: foreign coaching

The Philippine Sports Commission yesterday said it has yet to hire the Chinese coaches who will train and guide the 29 China-bound athletes from six sports identified as gold-medal potentials in the Beijing Olympics next year.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez said they are hoping to tap available coaches from the Chinese national team to maximize the foreign exposure of the athletes from diving, swimming, gymnastics, wushu, weightlifting and fencing.

"The only thing lacking are quality coaches. We want to make sure that we will hire the best coach available for each sport," Ramirez told the INQUIRER.

Except for the coaches, Ramirez said all the requirements—billeting and accommodation, plane tickets and allowances—of the athletes leaving on May 28 have been taken care of.

Funding will come from the contingency fund of the PSC with the President's husband Mike Arroyo still too weak to tap the support of the private sector for the country's Olympic bets.

Mr. Arroyo, who has committed his Foundation to boost the Olympic campaign, is still recovering from a high-risk, open-heart surgery.

Ramirez, who has yet to meet with Arroyo since the latter's operation, said the Olympic program would cost P250 million, including the country's actual participation.

"We will proceed with the plan but the contingency fund from the PSC is very limited so the funds coming from the Arroyo Foundation is needed to keep the engine running so to speak," said Ramirez.

Seniors golf blasts off in Iloilo today

THE COUNTRY'S GOLFING ELDERS BEGIN their quest for top honors in various divisions beginning today as the 2007 Philippine Senior Amateur Open gets going at the Iloilo Golf and Country Club in Iloilo.

Iggy Clavecilla eyes a second straight championship in the centerpiece Open division although he is expected to have his hands full against the likes of former national amateur champion Francis Gaston and Rolly Viray, Bing Bunye and Severino Roxas Chua.

Also tipped to crowd the favorites for the crown in the 54-hole tournament are local bets Roberto Sinfuego, Usamo Ikeda and Bien Badajos.

DOTC Secretary and NGAP president Leandro Mendoza, IGCC president Frankie Locsin and Lirio Escaño Jr., corporate secretary of Fed. of Phil. Am Senior Golfers Inc. will hit the ceremonial drive to kick off the annual event being held in conjunction with the 100th year anniversary of the Sta. Barbara course.

Other guests are IGCC vice president Mark Rivera, NGAP vice president Commo. Danilo Pizarro and NGAP sec gen Jun Galindez.

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SC orders suspension of Makati judge

Woman judge faces probe for alleged protection order anomalies

By Leila B. Salaverria

CHIEF JUSTICE REYNATO PUNO has ordered the preventive suspension of a Makati family court judge who is under investigation for alleged corruption.

In line with Puno's order which was served on May 15, the Supreme Court padlocked the office of Judge Evelyn Arcaya-Chua of the Makati Region Trial Court Branch 144 to ensure that the court records in her sala would not be tampered with.

Security guards were also stationed round-the-clock outside Chua's office as a safety measure to prevent anyone from entering the premises, a statement issued by the High Court said.

Recommendation

Puno's order suspending the judge was based on the recommendation of court administrator Christopher Lock who has been investigating alleged irregularities in Chua's issuance of temporary protection orders (TPO) and permanent protection orders (PPO) to litigants with cases pending in her sala.

According to the Supreme Court statement, Lock said Chua displayed gross ignorance of the law when she issued a TPO on May 7 this year ordering a respondent in a case to turn over custody of a 6-year-old child to the father who was the petitioner.

Lock noted that the next day, May 8, Chua issued an order authorizing the sheriff to enter the place where the child could be found so she could be turned over to the petitioner. According to the court administrator, Chua's issuance of a TPO cannot be justified under the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 since "the applicant is a man seeking to enforce an order against a woman."

He added that Chua violated the Family Code which states that an illegitimate child should be under the parental authority of the mother, and that a child below 7 years old should not be separated from the mother, unless the court says otherwise.

According to Lock, the speed with which Chua issued the May 7 and 8 orders showed her "unusual interest" in the case.

"It must be pointed out that the order dated May 8, 2007 seems to have been tailor-made to fit the wish of the petitioner ..." he added.

There were other cases where Chua showed "unusual interest and acted hastily," Lock said. He cited one case where Chua was partnered with Judge Zenaida Galapate-Laguilles of Branch 143.

Canceled

According to Lock, Chua canceled the May 9, 2007 hearing earlier scheduled by Laguilles for a bank's application for the issuance of a writ of preliminary attachment.

She then reset the hearing to an earlier date, April 23, he added. Although she later granted the bank's petition after the hearing, what was "highly suspicious in (Chua's) actuation is that (Laguilles), in scheduling the hearing on May 9, did not see any urgency in the application," Lock said. In another case, Chua was accused of soliciting and receiving P100,000 for the speedy resolution of a case.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Chua for comment, but a member of her staff said the judge was on leave. Another staffer said that no one among them was authorized to comment on the matter.

Chua was given 10 days to refute the charges against her.

Judge Marissa Guillen of the Makati RTC Branch 60 has been designated acting presiding judge in Chua's sala. *With DJ Yap*

Binay in Palace by 2010? That's destiny, says mayor

By DJ Yap

WITH THE INITIAL RESULTS OF the May 14 polls showing him likely to win a seventh term, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has already set his sights on the future—2010, to be exact.

Binay, also the president of the United Opposition, has dropped hints that he might join the race for the presidency.

"That's part of destiny. I'd be a hypocrite if I don't accept the fact that I want to continue in the government service," he said in an interview conducted a week before the elections.

More specific, he added: "I will aspire for a position in the executive arm."

Executive office

Asked if this meant going to Malacañang, he evaded the question: "Oh well, there are many positions in the executive branch—you can be a Cabinet member or vice president."

"We'll try to cross the bridge ..." Binay trailed off. "This is a cliche, *itinulak ng bayan* (urged by the people), we'll see. But I am still strong enough physically and mentally. I can continue to be of service."

But running for a seat in either the House of Representatives or the Senate is not part of his plans.

"It's not my cup of tea—sitting down the whole day. I have no intention of being a member of the committee of silence," he said, alluding to legislators who do not participate in discussions.

"Given an option, I'd rather be a part of the executive department. First of all, I'm with the opposition and 2010 is an extension of opposition year," Binay said.

And what about Makati?

Binay, who is on his last term, said: "Maybe I'll be like Lee Kuan Yew in Makati. The senior citizen for the city. I'll be at their beck and call, so to speak."

And no, Binay said he has no plans of fielding his wife Elenita, who has already served one term, or either of his two children, Marlen Abigail Binay, who is leading over her opponent for representative of district 2, and Jun-Jun Binay, who has, so far, topped the race for councilors in district 1.

"I'm looking forward to have my vice mayor (Ernesto Mercado) be accepted as my successor. I hope he gets the chance to be mayor as we come from the same background," Binay added.

"My wife? It would be hard to convince her to run since we have growing grandchildren. She enjoys tending her garden," he said.

As for his children, he said: "They have already carved a name for themselves in their political life, especially Jun-jun, and now, Abigail."

Concerns

In the meantime, the mayor has more urgent concerns to attend to, one of which is a suspension order against him, the implementation of which was deferred until after the elections.

On May 4, Binay was served a suspension order in connection with a complaint filed in the Office of the Ombudsman by a political rival who had accused him of keeping ghost employees.

But the city's public affairs chief Joey Salgado said that once Binay is proclaimed winner of the mayoral race, the suspension order would be "deemed lifted."

DID YOU KNOW

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It is bounded in the north by the provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga, in the east by Metro Manila and Rizal, in the south by Cavite and in the west by Bataan. It has an area of approximately 1,700 square kilometers and an average depth of 17 meters.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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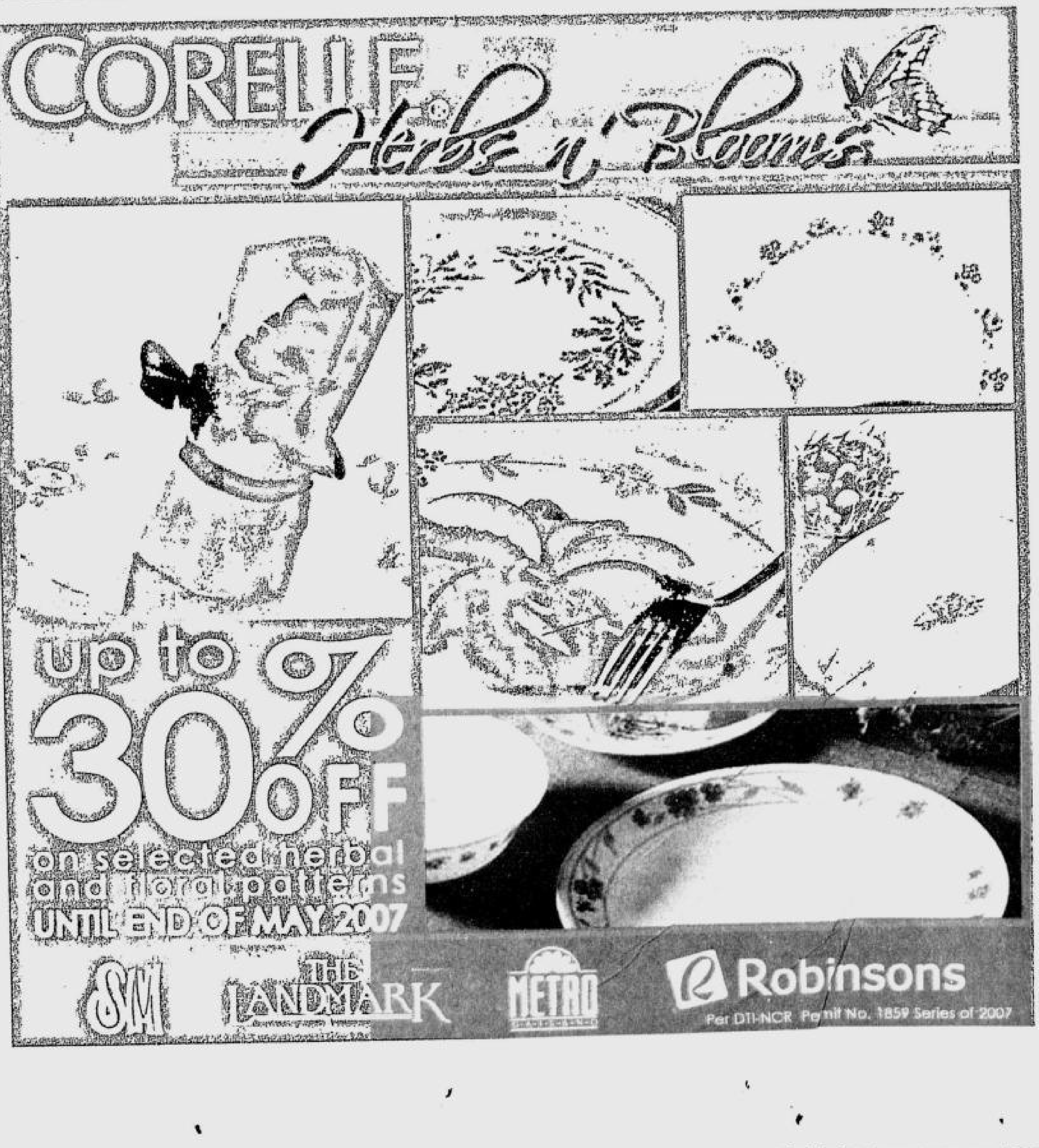

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INQGRAPH: LOUIE BACANI

Partial Comelec and Namfrel counts compiled by Metro Staff* as of May 16, Wednesday

NCR

CALOOCAN CITY

Congressman (1st district)	
ECHIVERRI, Ricojudge Javier (Lakas)	1245
GARRA, Leo (Katipunan ng Bagong Caloocan)	167
MALAPITAN, Oscar (NP/UNO)	2338
PLA, Nadine Marie Inez (Liping Kalookan)	137
Congressman (2nd district)	
APAR, Virgilio (KBL)	4
CAJAYON, Maria Mitzi (LP)	971
DIVINA, Nilo (Kampi)	1236
ERICE, Edgar (LP)	1205
MUÑOZ, Albert (Ind)	546
Mayor	
ASISTIO, Luis (NPC)	2069
ASISTIO, Macario (Liping Kalookan)	147
ECHIVERRI, Enrico (Lakas)	1973
MALONZO, Reynaldo (Kabaca)	747
VILLANUEVA	10
Vice-Mayor	
CAMAYO, Henry (Camayo)	1153
VALERA, Luis Tito (Kampi)	2953
VALLEGA	299

LAS PIÑAS CITY

399 out of 1908 precincts, Comelec count as of 6:30 p.m.

Congressman (lone)	
BUENAFLOR, Nestor (Kampi/Ind)	329
VILLAR, Cynthia (NP)	34231
ALUMBRES, Florentino (Kampi)	594
Mayor	
ABELLAR, Antonio Jr. (Kampi)	395
AGUILAR, Vergel (Ind)	35479
ROQUE, Benjamin (Ind)	107
TATLONGHARI, Jefferson (Ind)	227
Vice-Mayor	
DELA CRUZ, Berlin (NPC)	13789
GONZALES, Benjamin (PMP)	808
IDANAN, Chito (Kampi)	263
MARTINEZ, Ferdinand (Kampi)	257
MEDINA, Henry (Lakas)	19730

MAKATI CITY

570 out of 1834 precincts, Comelec count as of 5:30 p.m.

Congressman (1st district)	
IBAY, Oscar (Kampi)	2663
LOCSIN, Tedoro Jr. (PDP-Laban)	16685
Congressman (2nd district)	
BINAY, Mar-len Abigail (UNO/PDP-Laban)	31668
GENUINO, Erwin (Lakas)	19722
Mayor	
BINAY, Jejomar (PDP-Laban/UNO)	64939
DULALIA, Elias (Ind)	419
LAPID, Manuel (Lakas)	6933
Vice-Mayor	
MERCADO, Ernesto (PDP-Laban)	52717
YABUT, Nemesio Jr. (Lakas)	18521

MALABON-NAVOTAS

Congressman (lone)	
CINCO, Roberto (Ind)	19
FRANCISCO, Maritoni (PMP)	1771
LACSON-NOEL, Josephine Veronique (NPC)	4214
SANDOVAL, Alvin (LP)	3689

NAVOTAS

Comelec count as of 6:30 p.m.

Mayor	
TIANGCO, Tobias (Partido Navoteño)	7204
SANDOVAL, Ricky (Coalition of Administrative Political Party)	3552

MANDALUYONG CITY

399 out of 1334 precincts, Comelec count as of 6:20 p.m.

Congressman (lone)	
CUSTODIO, Emelito (Ind)	14273
GONZALES, Neptali II (Lakas)	35637
Mayor	
ABALOS, Benhur (Lakas)	38133
ALPUERTO, Camilo (LP-Jack V. Ramel)	601
SOLOMON, Florencio (Ind)	778
Vice-Mayor	
DE GUZMAN, Danilo (PMP)	21828
RAMEL, Jack (LP-Jack V. Ramel)	533
STA. MARIA, Renato (Lakas)	19020

MANILA

116 out of 4903 precincts, Comelec count as of 7:30 p.m.

Mayor	
ATIENZA, Arnold (LP)	7609
LACUNA, Danilo (PDP-Laban)	5768
LIM, Alfredo (UNO/KKK Laban)	9417
BACANI, Rodolfo (LP)	1200
JIMENEZ, Maria (Aksyon Demokratiko)	355
Vice-Mayor	
ABAD, Onofre (Ind)	
BAGATSING, Don Ramon (LP)	5690
DOMAGOSO, Francisco Isko Moreno (PDP-Laban)	8279
HIZON, Joey (NP)	8273
BELGICA, Grepor (Ind)	764
ORTEGA, Robert Jr. (Aksyon Demokratiko)	588
ASTALS, Cita (Ind)	600

MARIKINA CITY

162 out of 1572 precincts, Comelec count as of 5:30 p.m.

Congressman (1st district)	
ANDAYA, Ruperto (UNO/PMP)	2011
GARCIA, Alberto (Independiente Partido Pilipino)	51
PAZ, Eva (Kampi)	6476
RIVERA, Benedicto Luis (Ind)	95
TEODORO, Marcelino (Lakas)	15833
Congressman (2nd district)	
CANDAZO, Romeo (PMP)	14233
DE GUZMAN, Del (Lakas)	20790
DELA LLANA, Arturo Pete (Ind)	127
Mayor	
FERNANDO, Ma. Lourdes (Lakas)	41372
MOLINA, Benjamin Jr. (PMP)	7598
Vice-Mayor	
ANDRES, Marion (Lakas)	36220
ANGELES, Efren (PMP)	10281

MUNTINLUPA CITY

Namfrel count as of 6:30 p.m.

Congressman	
BIAZON, Rozzano Rufino (LP)	75525
PUNO, Ricardo Jr. (NPC)	58298
Mayor	
FRESNEDI, Loretta (Lakas)	60821
MASANGKAY, Elizabeth (NPC)	12910
SAN Pedro, Aldrin (PMP/UNO)	73048
Vice-Mayor	
SIMUNDAC, Artemio (Lakas)	
CAYETANO, Rene Carl (Ind)	61401
MOLDEZ, Ricardo (NPC)	15482
BIMUNDAO	66734

PARAÑAQUE CITY

33 precincts, Comelec count as of 6:30 p.m.

Congressman (1st district)	
FERRER, Walfrido (PDP-Laban)	414
VARONA, Netz (Ind)	7
YABUT, Fortunato (Ind)	18
ZIALCITA, Eduardo (Lakas)	2048
Congressman (2nd district)	
ARROYO, Benjamin (UNO/Ind)	829
GOLEZ, Rollo (Ind)	2528
NERY, Jose Sr. (Ind)	50
ROSAL, Pacifico (Ind)	32
ROXAS, Romeo	1669
Mayor	
BERNABE, Florencio (Lakas)	5566
OLIVAREZ, Pablo (PMP/UNO)	2427
Vice-Mayor	
YLLANA, Andres Jose Jr. (Lakas)	3585
FERRER, Abundio (Ind)	4
TAMBUNTING, Gustavio (Aksyon Demokratiko)	4179

PASAY CITY

450 out of 1313 precincts, Namfre las of 6:30 p.m.

Congressman (lone)	
CRISTOBAL, Jose (Ind)	216
ESPELETA, Saturnino (Ind)	215
PANALIGAN, Allan (Kampi)	15448
ROXAS, Jose Antonio (UNO/LDP)	16320
SANTOS, Ricardo (Lakas)	9863
Mayor	
DY, CONSUELO (Kampi)	21491
DY, SEGUNDINA	45
JOSEPH, Ralph (Ind)	62
MARCELO, Romulo Sr. (Ind)	75
NOEL-PENAFLOR, Francisco (Ind)	53
TRINIDAD, Neil (Ind)	18
TRINIDAD, Ramon (Ind)	77
TRINIDAD, Wenceslao (UNO/LDP)	23510
Vice-Mayor	
AGITO, Maximino (Ind)	101
ALCERA, Greg (LP)	7162
CALIXTO, Antonio (LDP)	24743
TOLENTINO, Arvin (Kampi)	11176

PASIG CITY

as of 3 p.m.

Mayor	
EUSEBIO, Roberto (NPC)	1138
JAWORSKI, Robert Jr. (Lakas)	1251

QUEZON CITY

140 out of 7003 precincts, Comelec as of 3:30 p.m.

Congressman (1st district)	
ABESAMIS, Rommel (NPC)	1214
CRISOLOGO, Vincent (Lakas)	3547
PADILLA, Antonio (Kapatiran)	56
Congressman (2nd district)	
ABAN, Vicente Jr. (Ind)	9
BALOSA, Esmeraldo (Ind)	2
JIMENEZ, Walter (Ind)	3
LIBAN, Dante (LP)	682
MATHAY, Ismael III (Kampi)	1928
NUEVA, Norma (AK Party Independent)	5
SIMON, Brigido (PMP)	444
SUSANO, Mary Ann (Lakas)	3063
Congressman (3rd district)	
Mayor	
ACEBEDO, Romeo (Ind)	74
ALVAREZ, Florian (Ind)	89
ROSALES, Andy (Ind)	83
BELMONTE, Feliciano Jr. (Lakas)	11158
Vice-Mayor	
BAUTISTA, Herbert (Lakas)	11125
BAUTISTA, Roberto (Ind)	129
JOTA, Rolando (KBL)	60
UBSUM, Rogelio (Ind)	35

SAN JUAN

82 out of 518 precincts, as of 6 p.m.

Congressman (lone)	
ALCOVENDAZ, Ericson (Ind)	3060
ANDRADA, Manuel (Lakas/Kampi)	255
ZAMORA, Ronaldo (PMP)	4195
Mayor	
BENALLA, Juan (Ind)	51
EJERCITO, JV (PMP)	6674
ENRIQUEZ, Alexander (Kampi)	111
SINGSON, Engracia (Ind)	266
Vice-Mayor	
ANGELES, Glenn (Ind)	2647
CELLES, Leonardo (PMP)	4443
SIBAL, Danilo (Kampi)	85
TAMAYO, Aniceto (Ind)	60

TAGUIG-PATEROS

58 out of 1275 precincts, Comelec count as of 6:30 p.m

Congressman (1st district)	
CAPCO, Jose Jr. (Ind)	509
CAYETANO, Ma. Laarni (NP)	1856
CERAFICA, Arnel (Kilusang Diwa ng Taguig)	1912
FERNANDEZ, Corazon (Ind)	1
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALIT, Arturo (NPC)	748
DUEÑAS, Henry Jr. (KDT)	728
REYES, Angelito (Kampi)	640

TAGUIG

Mayor	
MIRANDA, Marianito (NPC)	2159
TINGA, Sigrido (KDT)	4247
Vice-Mayor	
ELIAS, George (KDT)	3045
LABAO-ALZONA, Ma. Loida (UNO)	3314

INQUIRER METRO REPORTERS AND STAFF: KRISTINE ALAVE, JEANNETTE ANDRADE, JULIE AURELIO, NANCY CARVAJAL, ALLISON LOPEZ, MARGAUX ORTIZ, DJ YAP AND JUN VELOIRA WITH INQUIRER ELECTION 2007 VOLUNTEERS SHELLEY DIMACULANGAN, JONETTE MARIE MAÑOSA, ANGELA REBUENO, MARY ANN FRESCO, FRANCES MANGOSING, KATHERINE LIU, PENELOPE ENDOZO, VERITY CABIGAO, FAITH ALAYON, HERSHEY D. HOMOL, JENNY LYNNE G. AGUILAR, PATRICIA JULE T. HABAN, CAMILLE G. FALLORINA, JOHN EDISON T. FULGENCIO, REUBEN P. MERCADO, JESSICA HERMOSA, CHRISTIAN SANCHEZ, JOSEPH JOHN RAYMUNDO, RESTITUTO MATIKAS SANTOS, JACKY LYNNE OIGA, KIMBERLY TAN, PAOLO MONTECILLO, DELFIN FABRIGAS JR., GERVIC ESTELLA AND JEN PELIÑO

QC teachers' ordeal not over with end of poll duties

By Faith S. Alayon

AT FIRST, THEY WERE DISAPpointed. Then, they were infuriated. They finally ended up in tears as they told stories of their ordeal.

A day after the elections, frustrated teachers assigned to polling centers in Quezon City's second district gathered in front of the City Treasurer's office to get their allowances for serving as poll clerks.

The tension escalated on Tuesday afternoon when the teachers were again asked to come back the next day because the office was closing, causing a fiery exchange of words between the officials and the teachers.

The teachers complained that it was their second time to line up for their allowances because they failed to do so after retrieving the ballot boxes.

"We stayed here after the retrieval even though we haven't had any sleep. We waited for three hours before we could get our allowances," Bagong Silang teacher Jocelyn Brigeles said.

"The other teachers even stayed for six hours only to find out that their names were not written on the payroll," she added.

Elenita Balbestamin of Bagbag Elementary School, on the other hand, said she has not received even the first installment of the P3,300 allowance.

The process was slowed down because a number of teachers and poll clerks were not included in the payroll.

North Fairview teacher Corazon S. Paulino pointed out that it would have been easier if copies of the payroll were posted so the teachers could ensure that their names were on the list before lining up.

Quezon City Treasurer Belen Martinez explained that the Commission on Elections had failed to give a complete and final list of the teachers to be included in the payroll.

She added that it was the first time that the task of distributing the allowances was given to the local government.

"In previous elections, the responsibility of distributing the allowances was given to the schools through the school principals," Martinez said.

A teacher from Bagbag Elementary School was in tears as she narrated how she had traveled from Bulacan to Quezon City only to be told that she still needed to prove she really served as an election poll clerk.

"We did our part. I hope they also do theirs," she said.

Pasay City canvassing starts despite objections

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE CANVASSING OF ELECTION returns in Pasay City finally started yesterday after a poll officer ruled that the proceedings should push through.

In doing so, Board of Canvassers chair Anthonette Soriano rebuffed further attempts by lawyer Winston Gines, who is representing mayoral bet Consuelo Dy, to postpone the authentication of the election returns due to "massive electoral fraud."

"As we said yesterday, we will note your manifestation in the minutes of the canvassing. But we will continue with the canvassing," Soriano told Gines.

The other day, Gines moved to have the canvassing postponed because the votes for two candidates who had been disqualified by the Commission on Elections were to be credited in favor of former Pasay Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad.

Trinidad is Dy's number one rival for the mayoral post.

On Tuesday night, Gines resorted to questioning and objecting to each ER, delaying the canvassing.

The BOC said it would rule on Gines' objections within 24 hours.

But yesterday, Soriano put her foot down on Gines' attempts to again delay the proceedings.

"We have said this yesterday. All lawyers assigned to the subcommittees of canvassers can raise their objections to the board but the canvassing will proceed," she added.

POSTER-FREE METRO

Policemen in Quezon City participate in the cleanup drive after Monday's polls. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority hopes to rid the metropolis of all campaign materials by Friday, with the help of the police and proenvironment groups.

JOAN BONDOC

Security boosted at Pasig City canvassing

By Kristine L. Alave

PASIG POLICE AND ELECTION officials yesterday tightened security in the city, particularly near City Hall where the canvassing of poll returns is ongoing, after allegations of electoral fraud hurled by leading mayoral candidates against each other intensified.

The Eastern Police District said it has deployed Special Weapons and Tactics teams to the City Hall gymnasium, where the canvassing is taking place, along with antiriot policemen.

Lawyers of candidate Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski decried the conduct of the canvassing and petitioned the Board of Canvassers to suspend the proceedings.

According to Ryan Jan Cruz, Jaworski's counsel, the inventory of ballot boxes from the city treasurer is incomplete.

"If there are 1,709 precincts, then there are must be 1,709 electoral returns and there must be 1,709 ballot boxes. If there is more than 1,709 or less the number, then we should question the validity of the ERs, which are the source of the canvass," he said.

The BOC took note of Jaworski's complaint, but proceeded with the count.

Cruz also raised alleged discrepancies in the electoral returns. He claimed that some of the figures in the election returns and on the envelopes did not match and that there were extra ballots in the boxes.

Lawyers of Jaworski's rival, Councilor Robert "Bobby" Eusebio, meanwhile, said they were satisfied with the flow of the count.

Vincent Festin, one of Eusebio's lawyers, said many of the complaints from Cruz could be easily explained. He added that election officers include three empty ballots for voters who had made mistakes. *With Joseph John Raymundo*

METROBRIEFS

Chemical spill

RESIDENTS in Barangay Malibay, Pasay City panicked after they smelled something foul yesterday morning. The acrid fumes coming from Kemworke Inc., a factory in the area which supplied raw materials to paint manufacturers, prompted them to call up the police. The foul smell was later traced to a leaking drum containing ethyl acrylate. PO3 Ariel Inson of the Pasay City Fire Department said the chemical is a raw material usually mixed with water-based paints. Rescue units wearing special suits later went inside the factory to seal the drum and pour sand over the spilled chemical to contain the fumes.

Julie M. Aurelio

Suspected killer falls

A 26-YEAR-OLD garment factory worker who died the other day of stab wounds inflicted nearly two weeks ago managed to identify his attacker just before he passed away, leading to the suspect's arrest. The police subsequently nabbed Ruben San Jose, the neighbor of the victim, Joel de Guzman, in Barangay Gulod, Novaliches City. According to De Guzman's father, Joel was walking home on May 4 when he was stabbed by a man. The victim, however, was able to recognize his attacker.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Upsets in the just-concluded polls

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE JUST-CONCLUDED ELECTION was the tipping point for show biz personalities seeking public office: All, except one, were not elected.

The citizenry has become sick and tired of actors and actresses in elective posts. Cesar Montano, Richard Gomez, Christopher de Leon, Lito Lapid and his son Mark, all movie idols, suffered humiliation at the hands of lesser known personalities.

The only exception is actress Vilma Santos who won by a big margin over incumbent Armand Sanchez in the Batangas gubernatorial race. The reason behind her victory is her exemplary performance as Lipa City mayor.

The Filipino voters have matured politically.

* * *

Isabela Gov. Maria Gracia Padaca appears to have been rejected by her constituents, if the trend continues. Gov. Benjamin Dy, whose brother, Faustino, Padaca beat in 2004, could be reinstalled.

Padaca was elected based on her promise of good governance that included the elimination of "jueteng," the illegal numbers game, in the province.

But she could not deliver on her promise. Jueteng continues in the province because one of her biggest supporters is allegedly a jueteng lord himself.

Although Isabela constituents have no problem with jueteng, since it has been there for generations, they took the governor up on her word that she would stop the numbers game.

Moral of the story: Elective officials who can't deliver on their promises face the prospect of defeat when they run again.

* * *

The biggest loser in the electoral contest is boxing idol Manny Pacquiao who ran for the congressional seat of South Cotabato. He suffered a knockout at the hands of a woman, reelectionist Darlene Antonino-Custodio, who was running scared and was the underdog.

Pacquiao's political defeat will probably also make Pacquiao a beaten man in the ring. His low morale will lead to his defeats in his next bouts. If only he didn't become an *uto-uto* (sucker) to his friends and admirers.

* * *

Pacquiao thought that the people's adulation would send him to Congress. He was drunk with their shouts of hallelujah when he came home after his victories.

His song, "Para sa Iyo ang Laban na Ito," became a platinum record.

What he didn't know was that people bought his record because they found his voice funny. Imagine, a man with the voice of a boy and a thick Visayan accent to boot having the gall to sing! It's much like a village fool thinking that because children followed him around, he was greatly admired.

* * *

Engineers who worked on the more than P300 million lampposts scam in Cebu are now claiming that contrary to law, the program of work for the project was prepared and completed in the DPWH Central Office and it was only "fed" to local government officials who were authorized to prepare it.

"We pity the DPWH officials in the region as well as the local officials charged with graft; they are cannon fodder. The truth is their signatures were forged. We just scanned it and made it appear as if they were the ones who signed and approved the project plan," said one of the Cebu-based engineers.

Regional officials of the DPWH charged with graft were DPWH Regional Director Roberto Lala, Assistant Regional Director Marlina Alvizo, regional maintenance chief Pureza Fernandez, among others.

According to the source, the DPWH engineers facing graft charges are now planning to also come out, feeling that the DPWH central office has "abandoned" them.

"They ought to be pitied. After their signatures were used, they they were left at the mercy of politicians, the Ombudsman and media. And to think that they did not get a centavo at all," said the source. The same source confirmed an earlier report that the brother of a Cabinet member was the one who made off with the biggest kickback in the project that is said to be overpriced by as much as 300 percent.

Harvard bares new curriculum

BOSTON—HARVARD UNIVERSITY on Tuesday approved its biggest curriculum overhaul in three decades, putting new emphasis on sensitive religious and cultural issues, the sciences and overcoming US "parochialism."

The curriculum change, proposed on Feb. 8 after three years of faculty debate, is intended to counter criticism the oldest US institute of higher learning was focused too narrowly on academic topics instead of real-life issues.

One of the eight new required subject areas—"societies of the world"—aims to help students overcome US "parochialism" by "acquainting them with the values, customs and institutions that differ from their own," Harvard said.

"This new program is the result of hundreds of hours of lively engagement by the faculty," David Pilbeam, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, said in a statement.

Pilbeam will appoint a committee that will report back next year on how the new curriculum will be introduced.

An earlier proposal would have made Harvard unique among the elite Ivy League group of long-established Northeastern US universities by requiring undergraduates to study religion as a distinct subject, but that was dropped in December. *Reuters*

Nicole Smith's diary filled with sexual references, sadness

LOS ANGELES—"DON'T READ!! Personall," warns the diary's inside cover. But its author, Anna Nicole Smith, has no hold in death on the remnants of her life.

The public now can discover that she was delighted by rough sex, ecstatic over the prospect of plastic surgery for her breasts and fearful of a jealous boyfriend. She was careless with spelling, punctuation, and, too often, with her own well-being.

Complaining about her then-lover's carousing, Smith writes that she'll break it off with him if he doesn't stop. Then she amends her stand, according to new diary excerpts released exclusively to The Associated Press.

"We discussed it and he said he wouldn't go out and get drunk no more unless it was with me," Smith wrote in the diaries, which span about a year from early 1991 to 1992.

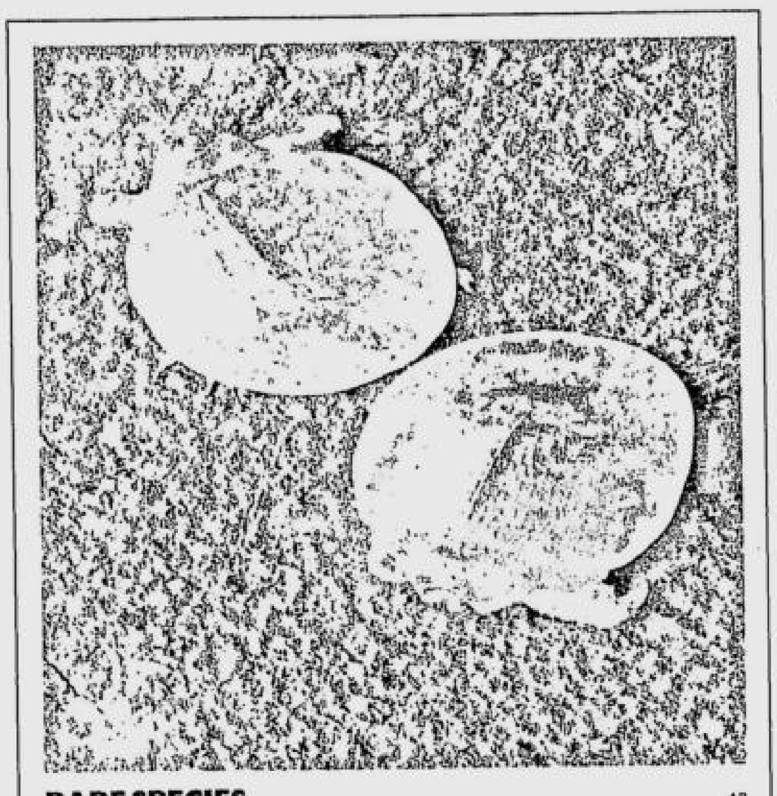
On an evening out a few weeks later with the same man (identified only by first name), Smith wrote that she got drunk and "asked a guy for his #."

Her boyfriend "came unglued. threw me out of his house & broke up with me it was awlful he hit me and my mother," she said.

The model and former Playboy Playmate, who was born Vickie Lynn Smith, was found dead on Feb. 8 in Hollywood, Florida, of a toxic mix of prescription drugs.

Copies of 60 diary pages were provided to the AP by Universal Rarities, a Corona-based auction house. The diaries were purchased from a memorabilia shop by a group of investors, who sold two of them to a German businessman for more than $500,000.

Those diaries were from 1992 and 1994 and included references to elderly Texas oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall II, whom Smith married in 1994 and who died the next year. *AP*



RARE SPECIES AP
Scientists discovered these two rare soft-shell turtles, once thought to be on the brink of extinction, in Cambodia in March.

Japan's plan to change Charter worries China

BEIJING—CHINA EXPRESSED concern on Tuesday at Japan's plans to rewrite its pacifist Constitution, saying it was a cause for misgiving for Asian countries which suffered Japanese invasion and occupation.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, at 52 Japan's first prime minister born after World War II, has made revising the Constitution a key element in his efforts to boost Japan's role in global security affairs.

On Monday Japan's parliament passed a law outlining steps for a referendum on revising the Charter, which was drafted by US occupation authorities in February 1947.

China's Xinhua news agency, noting that the pace of moves to amend the Constitution had quickened under Abe, said parliament's passing of the voting bill signified another "substantive step" in Japan's path towards amending the peace Charter.

It had also aroused "high concern and misgivings among the people of Asia who suffered Japanese invasion and enslavement," Xinhua said.

"People have begun to doubt whether Japan will continue its path of peaceful development."

Japan occupied the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945 and invaded and occupied parts of China in the first half of the 20th century. It invaded Malaysia, then known as Malaya, Singapore, the Philippines and other Asian countries during World War II.

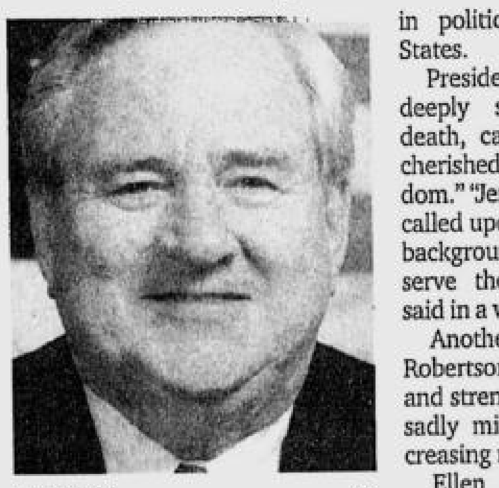
Article 9 at present renounces the right to wage war to resolve international disputes and bans the maintenance of a military.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu told a news conference on Tuesday that neighboring Asian countries had given their "utmost attention" to the plan to revise the Constitution.

"The facts demonstrate that the Japanese people were correct in choosing the path of peaceful development. We hope that Japan adheres to this direction."

Sino-Japanese ties have been overshadowed for years by what Beijing says is Tokyo's refusal to admit to atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers in China between 1931 and 1945. *Reuters*

US evangelist Jerry Falwell dies at 73



FALWELL AP

WASHINGTON—US EVANGELIST Jerry Falwell, who helped turn the religious right into a powerful political force and fired controversy with his battles against abortion and homosexuality, died on Tuesday at age 73.

He was found unconscious in his office at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital just over an hour later, said Dr. Carl Moore, his personal physician.

The evangelist, who had a history of heart problems, had no heartbeat when he was found by colleagues, Moore said, adding he apparently died of a heart rhythm abnormality.

Falwell's increasing influence in the 1970s and 1980s coincided with the rise of the US religious right, whose votes helped send conservative Republicans including Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush to the White House.

Fond of quipping that the Bible referred to "Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve," Falwell provoked a storm of protest when he said gays, lesbians and health workers who provide abortions were partly to blame for the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I really believe that the pagans and the abortionists and the feminists and the gays and the lesbians ... all of them who have tried to secularize America, I point the finger in their face and say: you helped this happen," he said.

Reactions to Falwell's death reflected the bitter divide over his views, and over the role of religion in political life in the United States.

President Bush said he was deeply saddened by Falwell's death, calling him "a man who cherished faith, family and freedom." "Jerry lived a life of faith and called upon men and women of all backgrounds to believe in God and serve their communities," Bush said in a written statement.

Another leading evangelist, Pat Robertson said: "Jerry's courage and strength of convictions will be sadly missed in this time of increasing moral relativism."

Ellen Johnson, president of American Atheists, said Falwell was "instrumental in galvanizing millions of American evangelicals into an intolerant, sectarian and authoritarian political movement."

"Gays, women, secularists, civil-libertarians and other groups who did not fit into his plan to construct 'One Nation Under God' were stigmatized and attacked." she said.

Born on Aug. 11, 1933, Falwell said he was "born again" on Jan. 20, 1952, the day he converted to Christ while at Lynchburg College.

He founded the Thomas Road Baptist Church in his hometown of Lynchburg in 1956 and went on to found Liberty University in 1971—a conservative center of higher learning.

In 1979, he started the Moral Majority organization, which became a major vehicle for getting out the vote for the Republican Party.

He disbanded the Moral Majority in 1989 but it was resurrected as The Moral Majority Coalition, with an explicit political purpose, after Bush's reelection in 2004.

"He became a leading voice by the time of Ronald Reagan's emergence in 1980 and the whole concept of family values was adopted by the Republican Party," presidential historian Douglas Brinkley told Fox News.

"His influence in politics was very real because he helped politicize evangelicals and other religious groups, the right side of the Southern Baptist Convention ... " With his gray hair and heavy jowls, Falwell was a familiar face on the televangelist circuit. *Reuters*

Spanish doctor jailed for spreading hepatitis C

MAESO AP

MADRID—A SPANISH ANESTHESIOLOGIST with hepatitis C was sentenced to 1,933 years in prison on Tuesday for infecting 275 people with the virus by injecting them with morphine from the same needles he used to feed his addiction to that drug.

The Valencia Provincial Court said Juan Maeso, 65, tainted the patients by first giving himself a portion of morphine shots meant for them, then shooting the rest into them without changing the syringes.

Maeso worked in four hospitals in the coastal city of Valencia when he infected the people from 1988-1997, the court said. Four of the patients died.

Maeso was sentenced after a trial that started in September 2005. The most he can serve under Spanish law is 20 years.

The court ordered him to pay $200,000 to the families of the four people who died, as part of fines totaling more than $27 million for all of the victims.

It dismissed Maeso's argument that he acted because he was helpless from his drug addiction, saying "in the end, he could have used the drugs in such a way that he did not cause any contagion."

Evidence clearly pointed to him in the infection cases, it said, saying that since he left those four hospitals no patients have come down with hepatitis C. *AP*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
MODAIR MANILA CO. LTD., INC. 3/F Emmanuel House Bldg., 115 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Kiyoshi Masuda	Project Manager
KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 18/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Sang-Jik Choi	Manager, Turbine Department
SHENZHOU MINING GROUP CORPORATION # 17 Sorsogon St., West Ave., Nayong Kanluran, Quezon City	Chunhai Li	Technical Staff
SHENZHOU MINING GROUP CORPORATION # 17 Sorsogon St., West Ave., Nayong Kanluran, Quezon City	Weixing Lin	Technical Staff
DEMAK MOTOR MANUFACTURING PHILS., INC. # 230, 10th Ave., East Gracepark, Caloocan City	Seow Phuan Ng	Director & Marketing Manager
LIBANDING KOREA INC. 1-A T-Tower Condo, # 5040 P. Burgos St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Sung Joo Cho	Financial Consultant
CHINA ROAD & BRIDGE CORPORATION Suite 1001 Ma. Natividad Bldg., 470 T.M. Kalaw Ave., Ermita, Manila	Yueyong Wen	Engineer
HSI PHILIPPINES, INC. 2404 AE Tower A, Skyland Plaza, 2302 Gil Puyat Ave., Buendia, Makati City	Chong Wen Ong	Project Facilitator

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

(PDI–May 17, 2007)

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONTRACT FOR SECURITY SERVICES

1 The Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), through the PPMC 2007 Corporate Operating Budget, intends to apply the sum of **Seven Million Four Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Three and 4/100 pesos (Php 7,463,483.04)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for Security Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2 The Poro Point Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Contract for Security Services. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB)

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the contract. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Poro Point Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from May 17, 2007 to May 23, 2007, from 8:00 AM to 5.00 PM.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from Poro Point Management Corporation from May 17, 2007 to May 23, 2007, 8:00 AM to 5.00 PM from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00). The method of payment shall be cash. The Bidding Documents shal be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The Poro Point Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on May 25, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the PPMC Administration Building, Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before June 7, 2007, 10:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of
   - (a) Cash – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget of the Contract Php 74,634.83;
   - (b) Cashier's or Certified Check – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget of the Contract Php 74,634.83;
   - (c) Irrevocable Letter of Credit – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract Php 74,634.83;
   - (d) Bank Guarantee – one and a half percent (1 1/2%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract Php 111,952.25
   - (e) Surety Bond – two and a half percent (2 1/2%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract Php 186,587.08;
   - (f) Foreign Government Guarantee – one hundred percent (100%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract Php 7,463,483.04.

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on June 7, 2007; 10:00 a.m. at the PPMC Administration Building, Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union. Bids shall be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. The Poro Point Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Poro Point Management Corporation
Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point
San Fernando City 2500, La Union
Tel. Nos. (63 72) 2424016; (63 72) 2420684
Facsimile No. (63 72 2420683) **ppmc@sflu.com**

(Sgd.) **Atty. Anthony C. Mangulat**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 17, 2007)

LGU – PILAR, CEBU

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Computerization Programs of the Treasury collection system; Business Permit Management System and Payroll System of the Municipal Treasurer's Office.

LGU – Pilar, Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of Three Million Pesos (Php 3,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Provision of the following:

Software
- Business Permit System
- Collection System
- Payroll System

Hardware
- 3 - sets of Computer (Pentium 4)
- 1 - set Computer Printer (LX #300 – Dot Matrix Printer)
- 2 - sets Computer Printer (HP Deskjet D2360)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The LGU – Pilar, Cebu now invites Bids and eligible Bidders for the Provision of these computer hardware and software at the said office. Delivery of the GOODS is required 8 weeks from receipts of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary Pass/Fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA9184) otherwise known as the " Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA5183) and subjected Commonwealth Act #138 (CA 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Bidding Documents. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirement of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, LGU-Pilar, Cebu and inspect the bidding documents from **8:00AM to 5:00PM** starting **May 18, 2007.**

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat, LGU-Pilar, Cebu and upon payments of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) to the LGU-Pilar treasurer. The bidding documents shall received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

LGU-Pilar, Cebu will hold a Pre Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **May 24, 2007 at 2:00PM** at the session hall of the Sangguniang Bayan, Municipal Bldg., Pilar, Cebu.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered on or before **June 4, 2007 at 11:00AM** to the BAC Secretariat, LGU-Pilar, Cebu. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount indicated in Section III of the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **June 4, 2007 at 2:00PM** at the session hall, LGU-Pilar, Cebu. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

LGU-Pilar, Cebu reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Hilario V. Omolon at 400-2023 or visit LGU-Pilar, Cebu of the Municipality of Pilar, Province of Cebu.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO A. SALAZAR**
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan
CHAIRMAN –Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 17, 2007)

Wolfowitz pleads to keep World Bank job

WOLFOWITZ REUTERS

WASHINGTON—WORLD BANK PRESIDENT Paul Wolfowitz on Tuesday begged the lender's board to let him keep his job, promising changes in his management style in the wake of a damaging favoritism scandal.

The board of executive directors was to continue deliberations on his fate on Wednesday, after the United States reiterated its support for the embattled bank chief.

However, a White House spokesperson entertained "all options," an opening interpreted by the US media as a sign of his imminent departure.

According to a hearing transcript released by his lawyer, Wolfowitz, 63, answered allegations he had put his "personal interests" above the rules, risking the very mission of the development lender.

The World Bank chief refuted point by point a scathing report by a bank investigatory panel published Monday concluding he had breached bank ethics rules in arranging a lucrative pay-and-promotion package and transfer to the State Department for his companion and fellow bank employee, Shaha Riza.

"I implore each of you to be fair in making your decision, because your decision will not only affect my life, it will affect how this institution is viewed in the United States and the world," Wolfowitz told the executive directors.

The month-old scandal has riven the 185-country bank—most European members are calling for Wolfowitz's resignation—and threatens to undermine the bank's ability to fulfill its mission to combat poverty.

"I fear that the way this recent inquiry is handled has the potential to do greater long-term damage to the institution than the alleged underlying ethics issue that was, in point of fact, put to rest over a year ago," he said.

The former US deputy defense secretary, an architect of the Iraq war nominated to head the World Bank by President George W. Bush's administration, acknowledged he had relied too much on advisers he had brought in with him when he became bank president in June 2005.

He pledged to change his management style "to regain the trust of the staff," whose association had called for his resignation after the scandal surfaced in the US media.

"If you want to have a discussion about my leadership, my management style and the policies I support, let's do it," he said. "That's fair. That's legitimate. But let's get past this conflict-of-interest matter." Wolfowitz also reaffirmed that the salary increases and promotions he arranged for Riza were part of a "reasonable" agreement to resolve a "difficult set of circumstances" in the conflict of interest regarding his supervisory role in their relationship.

He asked the board to acknowledge that mistakes were made on all sides, including by the bank's ethics committee.

Shortly after Wolfowitz took the helm of the bank in June 2005, Riza, who worked as a bank communications specialist, was transferred to the State Department and received a generous pay increase while still on the bank's payroll.

"You still have the opportunity to avoid long-term damage by resolving this matter in a fair and equitable way that recognizes that we all tried to do the right thing, however imperfectly we went about it," he told the board. *AFP*

Bush picks general as 'war czar'

LUTE AP

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush said Tuesday he had chosen a three star Army general as his point man for the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, ending a frustrating search for a "war czar."

The move comes amid an intensifying struggle with Congress over the course of the unpopular war in Iraq, now in its fifth year, and an administration push to salvage the US mission there.

"I have chosen Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute to serve as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan," Bush said in a statement.

Lute will "be the full-time manager for the implementation and execution of our strategies for Iraq and Afghanistan," Bush said, adding that the general also would manage "the interagency development policy process" for the two conflicts.

"Doug Lute knows Iraq, the region, and Washington, and he'll be a great addition to the team that is striving to achieve success in Iraq. He is also a doer," a White House statement quoted the US commander in Iraq, Gen. Dan Petraeus, as saying Tuesday.

Lute, who currently is serving as director of the Joint Staff, was selected after several prominent retired generals turned down offers or overtures to become the White House's "war czar."

The choice surprised colleagues at the Pentagon. Some questioned how effective a three star general would be in managing a war effort from the White House amid four star military commanders and cabinet secretaries.

But others pointed out that Colin Powell was a three star general when he served as president Ronald Reagan's national security adviser in the 1980s.

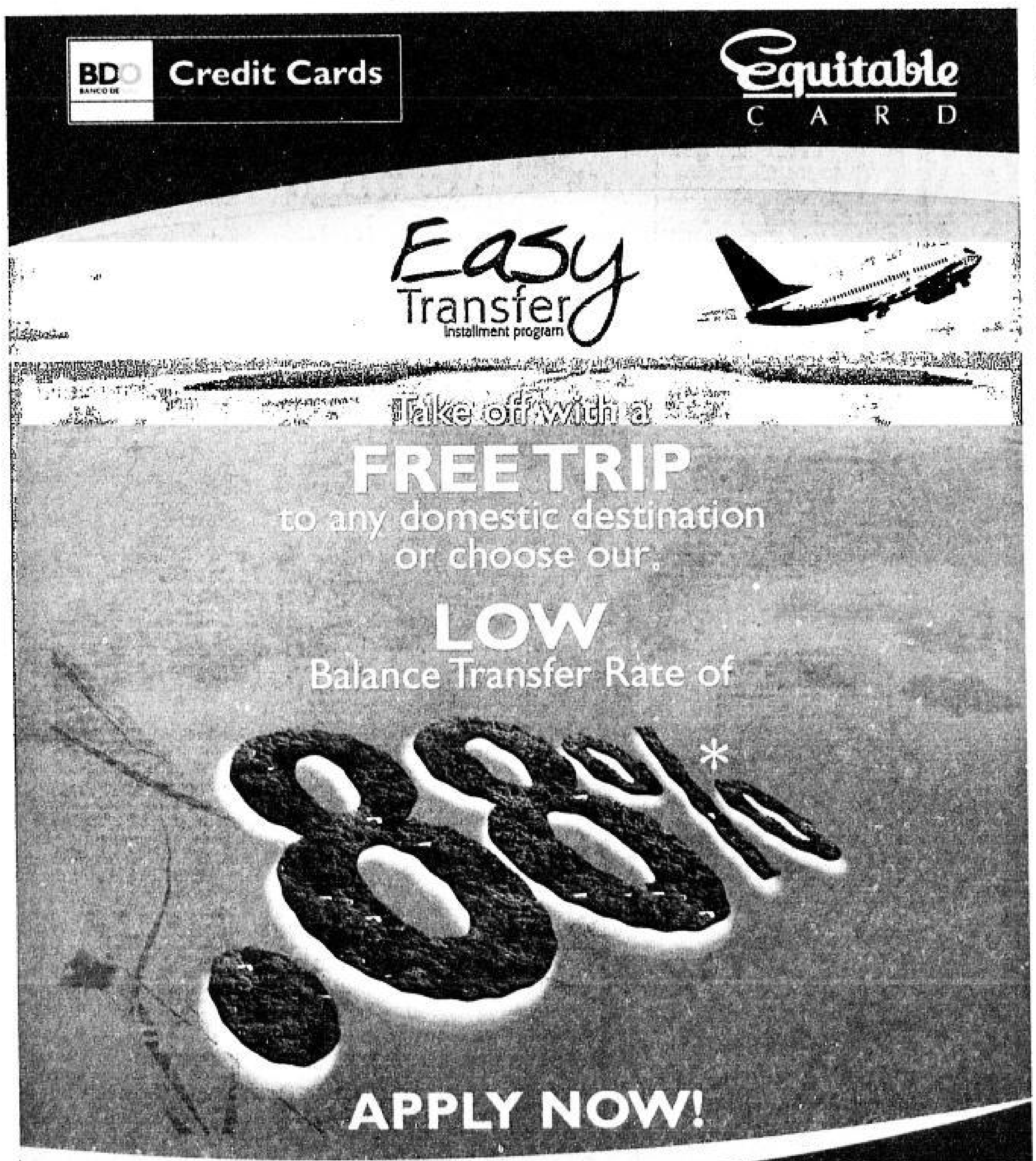
Officials said Lute will be responsible for war "policy and implementation," meaning he is expected to crack the whip on government bureaucracy on behalf of the military commanders and the US ambassador in Baghdad.

It would be somebody "empowered by the president, who can call up and say, 'You were asked to provide this number of people with this kind of a specialty, and the president wants to know where they are,'" US Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters last week.

The military has complained bitterly that it is carrying most of the burden of the war while other government agencies do little.

Lute will serve under National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, who has said he wanted somebody who would focus full time on Iraq and Afghanistan, doing what he would do if he had the time to do it.

Lute, 54, has been a three star general only since September, but he has deep experience in the Middle East and was heavily involved in the planning for the current "surge" of US troops to Iraq. *AFP*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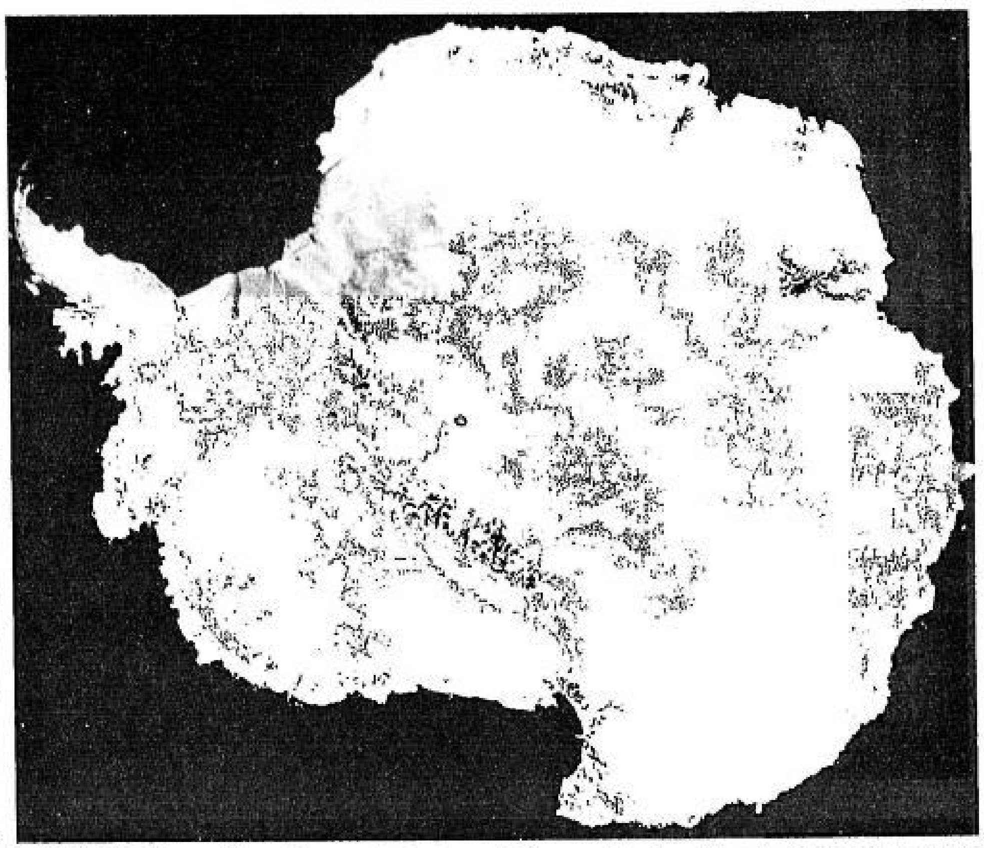
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1420 Series of 2007



THIS IMAGE from Nasa shows what a team of Nasa and university scientists say is clear evidence that extensive areas of snow melted in west Antarctica (left) in January 2005 in response to warm temperatures. AFP

Satellite images reveal vast snow melt in Antarctica

LOS ANGELES—RISING TEMPERATURES caused a layer of snow blanketing a California-sized region of Antarctica to melt, US space agency Nasa said in a statement on Tuesday.

A team of scientists from Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and the University of Colorado said new satellite imagery had revealed a vast expanse of snow melt in 2005 where it had previously been considered unlikely.

The Nasa statement described the findings as "the most significant melt observed using satellites during the past three decades."

Konrad Steffen, director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado, said it was the first time melting on such a scale had been detected.

"Antarctica has shown little to no warming in the recent past with the exception of the Antarctic Peninsula, but now large regions are showing the first signs of the impacts of warming," said Steffen.

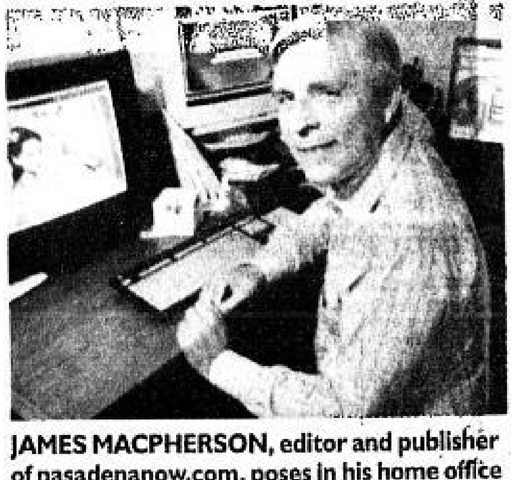
"Increases in snowmelt, such as this in 2005, definitely could have an impact on larger-scale melting of Antarctica's ice sheets if they were severe or sustained over time."

The melting occurred in multiple areas, including far inland, at high latitudes and high elevations, where melt had once been considered unlikely.

The melting was discovered using satellite scatterometry, a sophisticated imaging system which is able to distinguish between recently frozen ice or snow from snow that has been frozen for years.

The 2005 melt was intense enough to create an extensive ice layer when water refroze after the melt, the statement said. *AFP*

US news website outsources coverage to reporters in India



JAMES MACPHERSON, editor and publisher of pasadenanow.com, poses in his home office on May 9, in Pasadena, California. AP

LOS ANGELES—A CALIFORNIA NEWS WEBsite's editor who hired two reporters in India to cover suburban Pasadena said he has been so overwhelmed by handling reaction to his plan that he had to postpone publication of their first stories.

James Macpherson, editor and publisher of the 2-year-old website pasadenanow.com, said he has not found the time he hoped to have to train one of his new staffers to cover Monday night's City Council meeting, which is shown live on the web.

"We've been prevented from doing that due to the attention that we've received," Macpherson said on Monday.

Macpherson had posted a help-wanted ad on the Indian edition of craigslist.org: "We seek a newspaper journalist based in India to report on the city government and political scene of Pasadena, California, USA."

Last week he hired two Indian reporters, one a graduate of the journalism school at the University of California at Berkeley, and wanted to have started posting their stories on pasadenanow.com by now. One based in the Indian financial center of Mumbai will watch the meetings, which often go past midnight, and use the time difference (early morning in California is early afternoon in India) to write summaries so readers in the city near Los Angeles can log on Tuesday mornings and find out what happened.

Macpherson acknowledged it sounds strange to have journalists in India cover news in Pasadena, a wealthy city just outside Los Angeles.

But he said it can be done from afar now that weekly Pasadena City Council meetings can be watched over the Internet. And he said the idea makes business sense because of India's lower labor costs.

It would cost Macpherson only $20,800 annually for the pair. Not bad wages for an Indian journalist and cheap by US standards, especially if each one produces the expected 15 weekly articles. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Orcollo downs Feijen in Enjoypool /A24

SPORTS

Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** *Assistant Editor* **Francis T. J. Ochoa**

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Jazz do it, storm into West finals /A25

Syrians rout RP five by 34 points

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Tehran time*)
4:15 p.m.—Syria vs. Iran
8:45 p.m.—Bahrain vs. Philippines

TEHRAN—WITH THREE PLAYERS HURTING and unable to stop Syria's imports, San Miguel-RP Team absorbed its worst loss in the 18th Fiba Asia Champions Cup, 114-80, Tuesday at the Azadi Stadium here.

Bernard Jons, a deadly seven-footer, had a triple double of 22 points, 11 rebounds and 10 blocked shots while Julius Nwosu, who ironically helped the Filipinos to qualify here, added 18 points and eight rebounds as Al Jalaa slapped a third straight loss on the all-pro RP squad.

Nwosu was one of two imports Harbour Centre-RP used to win the Seaba Champions Cup in Indonesia last month with the national team under coach Chot Reyes taking over in this tournament as part of its buildup for the Seaba tilt set late next week.

The injuries being nursed by Jimmy Alapag, Danny Seigle and Mick Pennisi also hastened the downfall of the Nationals, who took earlier setbacks from Iran (101-88) and Kazakhstan (75-66) in Group B.

Alapag and Seigle have sprained ankles and Pennisi a gimpy left knee which they sustained in the loss to Kazakhstan's Astana Tigers last Monday.

All three played against the Syrians but

SYRIANS/ A25

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NISSAN DAVAO (General Santos City) Tel. No. (083) 552-3258

3 YEAR

Long Padyak Pinoy hits road today

By Musong R. Castillo

RIGHT AFTER WINNING THE PADYAK Pinoy last year in Marikina, Santy Barnachea expressed his wish for a tougher challenge when he bids for a repeat.

He got his wish and then some.

Not only is this year's edition stretched by two more stages, Barnachea will also have to compete with the big guns that were absent last year as this summer's 1,500-kilometer odyssey on wheels is flagged off today at the Mall of Asia.

Former winner Victor Espiritu, Merculio Ramos, one-time King of the Mountain Lloyd Reynante and Bernard Luzon have all come back to the fold, primed and ready to give Barnachea a run for his money.

Those big names opted for a rain check last year as they concentrated on representing the Trade Team. That made the road smoother for Barnachea, so to speak.

Espiritu, who won this event as a rookie in 1996, is one of the best climbers this event has ever produced. And with the back-breaking Baguio stages to come late in the schedule, the former RP Team member is definitely one of the riders to watch.

With action spread only for 11 days, anyone aiming to win will have to be on attack mode virtually throughout, starting with the 3.2-kilometer prologue today just behind the cavernous shopping mall along Macapagal avenue.

There will be a total of 96 riders in the mix, a little over 30 of them rookies who are eager to chace cycling immortality and the small fortune that goes with it.

Frederick Feliciano, Ericson Obosa, Renato Sambrano, Arnel Quirimit, Emelito Atilano and Bernard Luzon will also shoot to unseat Barnachea after an unsuccessful chase since the third stage last year.

Barnachea proved unshakeable however as he clung to the yellow jersey with so much ferocity.

Luzon is better prepared than last year, when he had to give up his titanium bike to his sponsor in favor of his old heavy steel frame at the last minute.

The team event also starts today, with the top three cyclists' individual times for each lap to be credited to their team. Cossack Vodka is the defending team champion.

Prologue rules will see the riders flagged off at one-minute intervals, their respective times today to be carried over to both the individual and team events.

Barnachea's squad, Champion, looms as one of the favorites in the team event, with Enrique Domingo, a veteran sprinter, also returning to serve as his assistant skipper.

After today's lap, the cyclists proceed to Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija from Quezon City tomorrow for a 190-kilometer journey.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Room 507-508, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
http://www.deped.gov.ph; deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com
Direct Line: 636-65-42 / Telefax: 636-65-43 Trunk Line 632-13-61 Locals: 2019

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The General Services Division (GSD) through the Department of Education - Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for **Supply of Services for Ground Maintenance of DepED Central Office for CY 2007 - 2008.**

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids	End User
Supply of Services for Ground Maintenance of DepED Central Office for CY 2007 - 2008	P 2,950,000.00	May 24, 2007 2:00 p.m. Venue: Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	June 6, 2007 2:00 p.m. Venue: Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	General Services Division

Bids received in excess of the ABC will be rejected at bid opening.

Bidders may submit bids on or before **June 6, 2007** during office hours to the BAC Chairperson through the BAC Secretariat at the address indicated in the next paragraph.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on **May 17, 2007** upon payment in cash of the non-refundable fee of Philippine Pesos Two Thousand & 00/100 only (Php 2,000.00).

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org** or call DepED-PS at Telephone Nos. 633-93-43/636-65-42 or Fax No. 636-65-43.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI-May 17, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 454-0254 • Website: www.nfa.gov.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In consonance with Republic Act 9184, the National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **June 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Social Hall, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**, among all interested rice suppliers for the supply of **275,000 MT, 10% MOLSO, 25% brokens well milled, long grain white rice and 25,000 MT, 10% MOLSO, 25% brokens, well-milled iron-fortified long grain white rice with arrival period as follows:**

Arrival Period	Quantity for Delivery
A. 25% Brokens, Long Grain White Rice	
NLT June 2007	10%
NLT July 2007	40%
NLT Aug 2007	50%
B. 25% Brokens, Iron-fortified Rice	
NLT August 2007	100%

Packing shall be in fifty (50) kilograms net each in polypropylene bags suitable for rice export with NFA markings with an appropriated budget from corporate resources, as follows:

Amount	Specification	Quantity (MT) 10% MOLSO
Php 4.358B	25%, Long grain white rice	275,000
Php 0.439B	25%, Iron-fortified	25,000

Source countries shall be Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, India, Australia and/or U.S. Containerized shipment allowed as an optional bid, but only up to a maximum volume of **20,000 MT** and discharging ports shall be Manila, Cebu and Batangas.

All interested suppliers are to submit mandatory bids for the 25% brokens and optional bid for the 25% brokens iron-fortified long grain white rice in US$/MT, CFR, FO, Documents against Acceptance (D/A) with a tenor of one hundred twenty (120) days from receipt by NFA of the complete set of original documents required for payment and on the basis of mandatory countertrade and countertrade performed on best effort. Otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive. Maximum quantity to be awarded for India origin is 25,000 MT while for Pakistan, Australia and/or U.S. origin shall be 50,000 MT each.

Government and private suppliers who have delivered to the NFA within the last three (3) years (2004, 2005 and 2006) and do not have a bad track record may be awarded the following maximum volume:

Supplier	White rice	Iron-fortified
Government (with good track record)	175,000	25,000
Private (with good track record)	50,000	25,000
Government/Private (without track record)	25,000	25,000

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT per specification. Offerors shall indicate the minimum volume acceptable in case of award. Failure to do so, shall mean acceptance of the Seller the awarded volume. Maximum load capacity of vessel shall be 15,000 MT.

However, suppliers and/or source companies with pending import-related accounts/liability prior 2004 are considered to have bad track record and are not allowed to participate in the bid.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the highest value offered in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the awarded volume within five (5) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

List of Eligibility Requirements and Instructions to Bidders may be secured starting **May 17, 2007** thru **MR. PIOLITO C. SANTOS**, Assistant Department Manager and **MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO**, Division Chief III, **Directorate for Marketing Operations, 4th Floor, Left Wing, Philippine Sugar Center Building, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 920-0651, 454-1890, 426-0569 and 454-1214.**

The terms of reference and offer sheets will be available from **May 17 – June 05, 2007** (8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **May 24, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Social Hall, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.**

Submission of bids will be on June 06, 2007 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Social Hall, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Opening of bids will start at exactly **10:00 a.m.**

All bidders are required to read and comply with the Instruction to Bidders.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) LUDOVICO J. JARINA
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – May 17, 2007)

Dolosa gives Cossack even chance

RENATO DOLOSA, TWICE A champion of the fabled Tour ng Pilipinas, still feels that the Cossack Vodka team that he coaches has an even chance of repeating as team champion of the Tanduay Padyak Pinoy that pedals off today.

Even if there are many seasoned riders returning to action this year, including former winner Victor Espiritu, who will skipper Wow, and Lloyd Reynante, the Air21 captain.

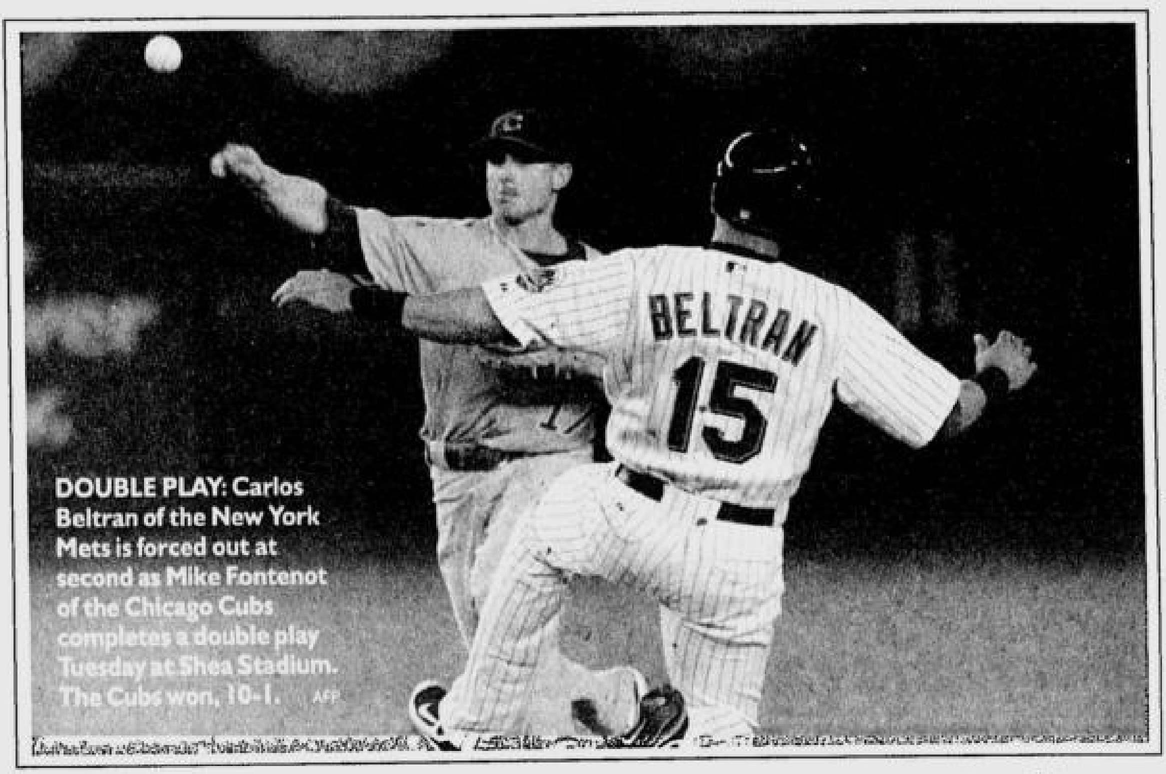
"That's (precisely) why we have a great chance," Dolosa said in Filipino. "Most of the big names in the field will be riding for personal glory. Not my team. We know what we want and that is to win the (team) championship."

The Cossack riders pedaled to victory last year when no one gave them a second look because the team was made up of virtual unknowns.

"Up until now, they (Cossack) are unknowns," Dolosa, who won the Tour in 1992 and 1995, added. "But that will work to our advantage, because the team event is very much different from the individual."

The Padyak Pinoy this year will have 10 stages spanning close to 1,500 kilometers, including runs to Vigan and Baguio, which will put premium on team play.

Renato Sambrano and last year's top rookie, Irish Valenzuela, have returned for Cossack, which earned a concession of sorts from organizers to keep its team intact after winning last year.


DOUBLE PLAY: Carlos Beltran of the New York Mets is forced out at second as Mike Fontenot of the Chicago Cubs completes a double play Tuesday at Shea Stadium. The Cubs won, 10-1. AFP

No RP boxers in top 50 list

NOT EVEN HALL OF FAMER FLASH ELORDE AND Pancho Villa and current Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquaio were deemed good enough to be included in ESPN.com's list of 50 greatest boxers of all time.

This despite the late Elorde's recent choice by some local boxing writers and commentators as the best Filipino pugilist of all time and Pacquiao's recognition as the world's best fighter for 2006 by Ring Magazine and the Boxing Writers Association of America.

To make matters worse, Mexicans Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales, both of whom were humbled by Pacquiao, landed in the list compiled by Kieran Mulvaney, who also writes for Reuters and TigerBoxing.com.

Barrera, who was stopped by Pacquiao in the 11th round in 2003 in San Antonio, Texas, made it at No. 43 while Morales, who was halted by Pacquiao twice in the last two bouts of their trilogy, was ranked 49th.

Mike Tyson ended the list, which, according to Mulvaney, was based on the criteria of in-ring performance, achievement, dominance and mainstream appeal.

Sugar Ray Robinson was chosen No.1, edging Muhammad Ali, who've been dubbed "The Greatest."

Floyd Mayweather Jr., landed 48th, way below Oscar De La Hoya, his victim in the mega-blockbuster The World Awaits card.

Roy Luarca

The final list: 1. Sugar Ray Robinson; 2. Muhammad Ali; 3. Henry Armstrong; 4. Joe Louis; 5. Willie Pep; 6. Roberto Duran; 7. Benny Leonard; 8. Jack Johnson; 9. Jack Dempsey; 10. Sam Langford; 11. Joe Gans; 12. Sugar Ray Leonard; 13. Harry Greb; 14. Rocky Marciano; 15. Jimmy Wilde; 16. Gene Tunney; 17. Mickey Walker; 18. Archie Moore; 19. Stanley Ketchel; 20. George Foreman; 21. Tony Canzoneri; 22. Barney Ross; 23. Jimmy McLarnin; 24. Julio Cesar Chavez; 25. Marcel Cerdan; 26. Joe Frazier; 27. Ezzard Charles; 28. Jake LaMotta; 29. Sandy Saddler; 30. Terry McGovern; 31. Billy Conn; 32. Jose Napoles; 33. Ruben Olivares; 34. Emile Griffith; 35. Marvin Hagler; 36. Eder Jofre; 37. Thomas Hearns; 38. Larry Holmes; 39. Oscar De La Hoya; 40. Evander Holyfield; 41. Ted "Kid" Lewis; 42. Alexis Arguello; 43. Marco Antonio Barrera; 44. Pernell Whitaker; 45. Carlos Monzon; 46. Roy Jones Jr.; 47. Bernard Hopkins; 48. Floyd Mayweather Jr.; 49. Erik Morales; 50. Mike Tyson

Enjoypool: Orcollo subdues Feijen

FILIPINO CUE MASTER DENNIS Orcollo edged European No.1 Neils Feijen of the Netherlands, 11-10, to remain unbeaten in the 2007 Enjoypool.com (formerly Billiard Congress of America) 9-ball Championships yesterday at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The 28-year-old Orcollo earlier beat Australian David Reljik, 11-5, and Swede Marcus Chamat, 11-7.

Feijen, winner of this year's Battle of Scandinavia 8-ball in Oslo, Norway, and Derby City Classic 9-ball in Louisville, Kentucky, dumped Richard Broumpton, 11-3, and Tony Crosby, 11-3, before yielding to Orcollo, top bet of Bugsy promotion.

The Quezon City-based Orcollo, the 2006 World Pool Leaque champion, will face countryman Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the next round.

Bustamante, a former world No. 1, beat Jeremy Jones, 11-7, of the Unites States and compatriots Marlon Manalo, 11-6, and Santos Sambajon, 11-9.

Manalo earlier trounced 2005 World Junior runner-up Hisashi Kusano of Japan, 11-2. Sambajon, who hails from Macalelon, Quezon, trounced Bruce Wilkinson, 11-3, of the United States and ex-world 9-ball champion Ralf Souquet of Germany, 11-5.

"I'm hoping for a good performance here in the BCA," said Orcollo, a native of Bislig, Surigao del Sur.

Orcollo is aiming for a better finish in this event to lift his status in world circuit after a poor showing in April.

Orcollo lost to eventual winner Lee Vann Corteza in the semifinals of the 2nd BSCP National Pool Championships at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

DENNIS ORCOLLO

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee for Office Uniforms of the Supreme Court and the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (BAC for Office Uniforms for the SC/PET) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

NAME OF PROJECT: Supply and delivery of Office Uniforms for Officals and Employees of the Supreme Court (SC) and Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET)

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES		APPROVED BUDGET
Female employees	1,491	Php 5,964,000.00
Male employees	1,174	Php 4,696,000.00
TOTAL	2,665	Php 10,660,000.00

PERIOD OF DELIVERY: November 5 to 30, 2007

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**
The pre-bid conference shall be on **May 24, 2007, Thursday, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon at the Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.**

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS**
The requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on **June 15, 2007, Friday 9:00 A.M. at the Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.** Submission and opening of bids will follow immediately after the eligibility check.

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Bids and Awards Committee or BAC Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the BAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Flordeliza S. Cruz, Office of Administrative Services, 4th Floor, Centennial Building, (Tel. Nos. 552-9550/552-9542), after payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand (Php2,000.00) Pesos.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

May 17, 2007.

(Sgd.) EDEN T. CANDELARIA
Chairperson

(PDI-May 17, 2007)

SPORTSWATCH

Bugbugan cockfest at SJC today

THE BUGBUGAN 7-COCK DERBY SIZZLES TODAY AT THE SAN JUAN Coliseum with some 90 fights lined up. This event comes on the heels of the 978-entry "Rambulan" derby last week, won by Allan Siaco of Manila, Boy de Roca and Rio Salceda of Bicol and Sammy Uy of Davao The three-cock eliminations will feature derbyists from Cebu, Davao, Negros Occidental, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Rizal and Metro Manila, according to hosts Louie Cua and Dori Du. The finals (4-cock) fires off on Saturday. Meanwhile, pit manager Renato Shio announced the staging of SJC Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan tomorrow with P100,000 up for grabs for an entry fee of P1,100. For info: 725-5369 and 725-6563 or 0917-8041691 (Maricar).

Fastest Win event up at Las Piñas

RISING HACKFIGHT AFICIONADOS FROM MUNTINLUPA, PARAÑAQUE, PASAY, Las Piñas, Laguna and Cavite take on each other today in Las Piñas Coliseum's Fastest Win One-Cock Timbangan beginning at noon. According to coliseum manager Alex Tobias, participants may register from 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The fastest win champion will be known after every five fights and will receive P10,000. Hosts Jonathan Benedicto and Mario Gujelde pegged the entry fee at P1,100. Meanwhile, 35 participants have signed up for the special 3-cock derby on Saturday. Host Eddie Alejandro staked a cash prize of P300,000. Entry fee is P5,500. For inquiries, contact 873-1040; 874-3910 and 0926-7450375 (Julius).

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Mainstay 92), First Of All (1), Cool Turner (4)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Good Homour (2), Fahrenheit (3), Long Nose Hawk (5), Bunker Buster (7)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Vivere (5), Tiger Song 91), Stop Talking (4), Golden Link (6)

Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Running Rebel (2), Gundam (7), Ocean Deep (5), Kai Maki (3), True Account (4)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Puede Ba 94), Newstar Lady (3), Balwarte (5), Bull Rider (1)

Race 6—(Tri)—Powerdance/Hukom (5), Kaori Yoks (1), Detective Daryll (2)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Pepe (3), Through The Fire (1), Top Quest (7), Decidido (3), Shy girl (10), Record Holder (6)

Susan back in swim of things

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

TSUEN WAN, Hong Kong—Up to the last minute, because of the current problems and severe harassment that had been coming her way compliments of Muntinlupa mayor Jaime Fresnedi, swimmer Susan Papa wasn't sure if she could make it to the Mantas Invitational Meet scheduled May 12 and 13 in Hong Kong.

As coach of the Alabang-based Pacific Blue Marlins, Susan was supposed to bring 21 swimmers with ages ranging from 6 to 14 to the annual international swimfest.

"Would you like to come along?" came her last-30-second invite. "Not really to cover the event but to witness and perhaps document what could be history in the making."

Susan said she was meeting with Fina officials, along with her assistant coach Dr. Susan Benasa and Teresa Reyes-Alvarez, the mother of her two students Vincent and Nikki and daughter of newsman Rod Reyes, to discuss a most ambitious undertaking.

"I want to form a nationwide swimming league to develop swimmers from the grassroots level," Susan revealed, explaining that she was inspired by former batchmate, Pasa president Mark Joseph who had come to her rescue in her raging war with Fresnedi.

"I want to return his kindness by helping him develop the sport."

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The Marlins delegation was huge—a 60-man entourage composed of athletes and their relatives. Teresa Alvarez's group alone had 10 members—she and her husband, her three kids, her in-laws and a *yaya*. The swimmers and their families paid for their own way.

Because the Marlins group was so big, the club had to be assigned to gallery seats at the topmost level of the venue where one has to climb numerous flights of stairs until the knees wobbled and the tongue hung out to get there.

Nevertheless, one must admit that the fully air-conditioned, covered Shing Mun Valley swimming complex with its Olympic-size pool is definitely state-of-the-art. Even more modern than the Asian Games venues she has competed in, according to Susan.

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The Mantas Invitationals is a 30-year-old event founded by British army man Capt. Harry Wright, who died in 1999. His son Rob and the other members of the family have taken over since.

This year, 17 clubs coming from all over the world such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Taipei, Beijing, Korea and the Philippines competed in the annual swimfest which has produced Olympians. Two are actually participating in the ongoing meet—Hannah Wilson and Geoffrey Cheah of the Hong Kong based Mantas Club.

In addition to the Marlins, five other participating clubs came from the Philippines: The San Beda Sea Lions, the Makati Skipjacks, the Electric Rays, the Dalta Piranhas, and the Santa Fe Aquatics from Bacolod whose lone entry Danna Mae Testa won the bronze in the 100-meter butterfly.

Wright said there used to be as many as 11 teams from the Philippines. The country's 17-year-old Ryan Arabejo, who will compete in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, is the product of the Mantas Invitationals, Wright bragged.

Ryan's older brother Raffy is the coach of the Makati Skipjacks while his mother Choi is manager. The Skipjacks won a bronze medal this year courtesy of Dhill Anderson Lee in the 200 butterfly for 15-and-above.

After two days of competition, the San Beda Sea Lions, coached by Gavino "Dondon" Roxas, finished with the biggest haul from among the Philippine teams, followed by the Blue Marlins of Susan.

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"We won 3 golds , 10 silvers 8 bronzes and broke the record in the 200-meter butterfly for 15 and above," team manager James Tan Sy proudly reported. Sy is the predecessor of Manny V. Pangilinan in the San Beda Red Lions basketball team.

The Sea Lions' gold medalists are Edson King Dinglasan in the 200-meter breaststroke, Ferdinand Frigillana who broke the record by one second in the 200-meter butterfly and Geneson Mendoza who showed the way for teammates Aldrian Reyes, second, and Dinglasan, third, in the 100 breaststroke for 15-and- above.

While the Blue Marlins had only 4 medals to show—a gold, two silvers and a bronze—Susan felt very fulfilled. Last year, their highest finish was 6th place. Besides, her club had the youngest and most inexperienced swimmers.

For her, things were getting back to normal. She was winning again. Not only in swimming but in her bitter battle against Muntinlupa mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

When she returned from Hong Kong late Tuesday night, she was greeted with the good news that mayoral candidate Aldrin San Pedro was leading by a huge 13,000 margin against Fresnedi's wife.

Bulls close in at 3-2, will host Game 6

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—BEN GORDON scored 28 points for Chicago, which avoided elimination for the second game in a row with a thorough 108-92 win over the top-seeded Detroit in game five of their Eastern Conference semifinal.

Kirk Hinrich collected 17 points and 13 assists for Chicago, which now trails, 3-2, and will host Game 6 on Thursday.

"We have been playing our game," Gordon said. "The last two games we have been playing with more confidence because we have nothing to lose."

The Bulls secured the victory, launching themselves back into the series with an efficient third quarter by outscoring the Pistons, 33-20, to take control.

Despite their stellar play, they still face long odds. An NBA team has never won a best-of-seven series after trailing, 3-0. In the four major sports, just the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs, 1975 New York Islanders and 2004 Boston Red Sox have done it.

Likewise, since 2003, the Pistons were 12-2 in potential series-clinching games entering Tuesday's contest, with the only losses coming Sunday and in Game 7 of the 2005 NBA Finals against San Antonio.

Chicago beat Detroit, 102-87, on Sunday to stay alive. This followed a three-game stretch where the Pistons routed Chicago, 95-69, and 108-87 at home in the first two games, and turned a 19-point deficit into a seven-point victory in Game 3.

However, with the win, the Bulls have reversed their own history.

Chicago had not won an elimination game on the road since May 7, 1989—a 101-100 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

That squad, led by a young Michael Jordan, still was two years away from winning its first championship. And while the current edition still might be a low-post player short, it is playing like it still has a shot at hoisting the trophy.

Entering the game shooting just 37 percent in the series, Chicago was on target all night, nailing 57 percent (43-of-75) of its shot from the field, including 10-of-16 from the arc.

In both wins in the series, the Bulls shot at least 49 percent from the floor.

Gordon, who shot 10-of-16 from the field, teamed with backcourt mate Hinrich to outscore Detroit's veteran tandem of Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton, 45-33. *AFP*

Jazz do it, storm into West finals

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—ANDREI KIRilenko and Carlos Boozer both notched double-doubles to help the Utah Jazz advance to the Western Conference finals with a 100-87 win Tuesday over the Golden State Warriors.

Derek Fisher scored 20 points and Mehmet Okur also registered a double-double for Utah, which remained undefeated in six home games in the playoffs.

"It feels great," Fisher said. "When the season started I don't think we realized how good we could be.

"We are going to enjoy it. This is a great moment. We're going to have our work cut out for us in the next round."

The Jazz will face the winner between second-seeded Phoenix and third-seeded San Antonio in the Western Conference finals.

Kirilenko had 21 points and 15 rebounds and Boozer 21 and 14 as Utah outrebounded Golden State, 59-35, and owned a 20-6 edge on the offensive glass.

The Jazz are headed to the conference finals for the first time since consecutive trips in 1997 and 1998, which resulted in back-to-back NBA finals appearances.

"It was tough," Boozer said. "They came out ready and gave us a tough series but we were pumped up and now we are moving on. It is unbelievable. We are going crazy."

Baron Davis had 21 points, eight assists and six steals for Golden State, which become the first eighth seed in league history to win a seven-game series over the top seed, defeating the Dallas Mavericks in six games.

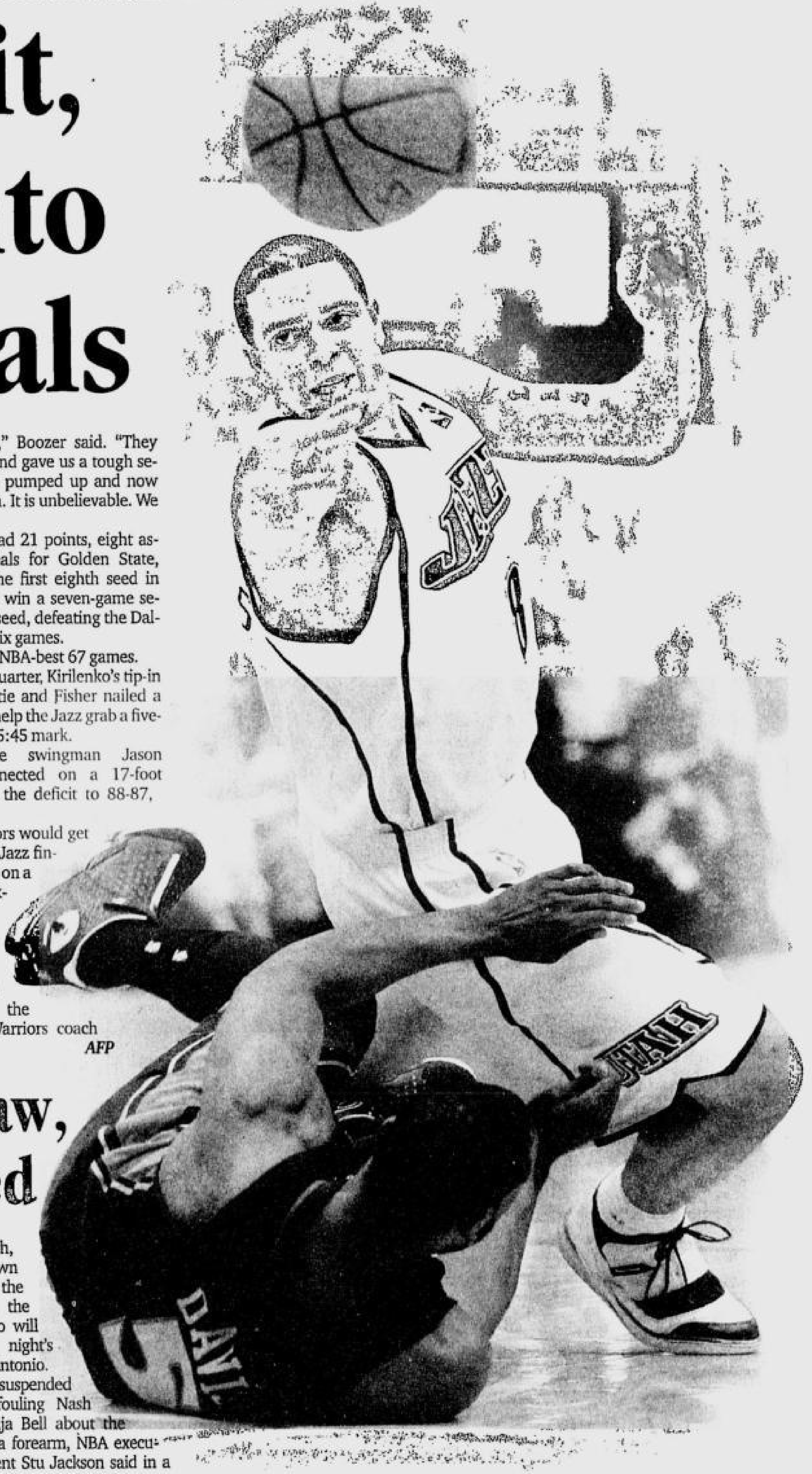
Dallas won an NBA-best 67 games.

In the fourth quarter, Kirilenko's tip-in broke an 83-83 tie and Fisher nailed a three-pointer to help the Jazz grab a five-point lead at the 5:45 mark.

Golden State swingman Jason Richardson connected on a 17-foot jumper to close the deficit to 88-87, 3:39 remaining.

But the Warriors would get not closer as the Jazz finished the contest on a 12-0 surge, making 10-of-11 free during that stretch.

"We just didn't have enough down the stretch," said Warriors coach Don Nelson. *AFP*



UTAH Jazz guard Deron Williams is forced to let go of the ball as he falls over Golden State Warriors guard Baron Davis during fourth quarter of their NBA playoff basketball game. AP

Stoudemire, Diaw, Horry suspended

PHOENIX—PHOENIX CENTER AMARE Stoudemire and teammate Boris Diaw were suspended Tuesday for one game for leaving the bench after Robert Horry's flagrant foul of Steve Nash in Game 4 of the Suns' National Basketball Association quarterfinal playoff series game against San Antonio.

The NBA also announced Horry was suspended for two games for knocking Nash into the scorer's table with 18 seconds remaining in the Suns' 104-98 victory at San Antonio on Monday night. Phoenix's victory evened the series at 2-2.

All three players were to miss Wednesday night's Game 5 in Phoenix of what has been a rough, intense showdown between two of the best teams in the NBA. Horry also will miss Friday night's Game 6 in San Antonio.

Horry was suspended for flagrantly fouling Nash and striking Raja Bell about the shoulders with a forearm, NBA executive vice president Stu Jackson said in a statement. Stoudemire and Diaw were suspended for leaving "the immediate vicinity of their bench" during the altercation. *AP*

C. Lhuillier seeks semis

GAMES TODAY (Olivarez Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Toyota Balintawak vs. San Miguel-Magnolia
4 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs. Burger King

CEBUANA LHUILLIER PERA PADALA GUNS for at least a playoff for a semifinal slot when it tackles skidding Burger King today in the PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez Sports Center.

With four straight victories, the Moneymen tangle with the Whoopers at 4 p.m. seeking to grab the solo lead with an 8-2 win-loss record.

Toyota Balintawak, fresh from a 69-63 upset of defending champion Harbour Centre, collides with lowly San Miguel-Magnolia earlier at 2 p.m.

The Road Kings are heavily favored to raise their record to 5-4 with the return of guard Marvin Cruz from sick bay.

The Moneymen, who ended the four-game run of Henkel Sista, 78-69, in their last outing, are visibly inspired although coach Luigi Trillo refused to get carried away.

"We're taking it one game at a time since there are other teams still in contention," he said. "I hope the players will maintain their intensity and continue to play hard."

The Whoppers actually own an 80-69 win over the Moneymen in the first round, but they are in the midst of a slump with four straight losses after a 4-0 start.

Ken Bono, Cebuana's main man, will have his hands full against archrival JR Quiñahan, who will return to action after a one-game suspension for rough play. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Jr. NBA Tournament tips off at Don Bosco

A CHANCE TO WATCH AN NBA GAME LIVE AND PARTICIPATION IN AN NBA SUMMER CAMP awaits the players of the 1st Jr. NBA tournament. Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle-Greenhills, De La Salle-Zobel, San Beda and University of Santo Tomas are contesting the inaugural season of the tournament for players 14 years old or younger. "The Jr. NBA is not only about testing the programs of different schools, but also seeing which individual talents have the potential to take their game a higher level," said Ateneo coach Jamike Jarin. Players from the champion school as well as nominated players from other schools will be awarded slots to the Jr. NBA Training Camp set June 4 to 6. The best six campers will be selected as the Jr. NBA Philippine All-Star team that will have a chance to watch an NBA game live in the 2007-2008 season. "We want the kids to have fun, while they compete," DLS coach Jumbo Montelibano said.

Syrians rout RP five by 34 points

From page A23

Reyes decided not to risk aggravating their injuries by benching them in the second half.

The Nationals wind up their schedule against Bahrain's Al Muharraq at 8:45 p.m. on Wednesday (1:15 a.m. Thursday, Manila time).

If they lose, the Nationals will go up against the top team from Group A in the quarterfinals Friday. A win gets them into a quarterfinal clash with the Group A's No. 2 squad.

Reyes has yet to decide whether to use his hurting players.

"Foremost among my responsibilities here is to protect my players and make sure we have the strongest team possible for the Seaba," he said.

Meetings with his staff and players have been set by Reyes starting at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

"We'll talk among ourselves," said Reyes. "While we will definitely go all out to win tonight, we'll also try to find out how best to win even without being 100 percent."

Jons, a skinny, long-limbed center with a quick leap and uncanny timing to swat away shots, went 8-for-9 from the field and 6-for-7 from the stripe before sitting out the fourth quarter.

"He plays above the air," said Asi Taulava, who was rejected five times by the Louisiana native.

Ren-Ren Ritualo scored the Nationals' last 15 points off triples and wound up with 23. Despite just 19 minutes of action and his injury, Seigle still finished with 14 points.

Michael Mandaly led all scorers with 27 points to go with 10 rebounds while Brazil natives Eduardo Farhat, Marcelo Correa and 6-6 playmaker Andre Churri combined for 18 points, 13 rebounds and four assists.

The scores:

SYRIA 114—Mandaly 27, Jons 22, Nwosu 18, Papazian 13, Farhat 9, Hadad 7, Sharif 7, Correa 6, Churri 3, Eshak 2, Shakkour 0.

SAN MIGUEL-RP 80—Ritualo 23, Seigle 14, Dela Cruz 11, Taulava 7, Alapag 6, Caguioa 5, Villanueva 5, Raymundo 4, Hontiveros 3, De Ocampo 2, Pennisi 0, Helterbrand 0.

Quarters: 22-20; 57-34;81-56;114-80

Lady Archers open volley '4-peat' bid

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THREE-TIME CHAMPION LA Salle tries to extend its stranglehold of the Shakey's V-League volleyball tournament, which opens today at The Arena in San Juan.

The tournament opens this year's season with a heavy three-game schedule capped by the 2 p.m. match between the Lady Archers and traditional powerhouses FEU Lady Tamaraws.

After winning three straight titles to establish a dynasty of sorts, the Lady Archers enter this season as solid favorites despite the loss of key players due to graduation.

Also on tap is the 9 a.m. opener between NCAA rivals Letran and San Sebastian College and the Ateneo-Lyceum tussle at 11 a.m.

Inaugural champion University of Santo Tomas and Adamson University drew a bye on opening day.

The event, sponsored by Shakey's Pizza in its continuing effort to help raise the level of RP women's volleyball, will formally open at 1 p.m.

San Juan City Mayor JV Ejercito will be the guest of honor and speaker and he will welcome the organizers, sponsors and participants of the Shakey's V-League to their new home at The Arena in San Juan.

Joining Ejercito are Shakey's president and CEO Leo Prieto Jr., who will do the ceremonial serve and Shakey's general manager Vic Gregorio, who will declare the games open.

Also gracing the opener are officials of the organizing Sports Vision Management Group, Inc. (SVMGI), headed by chair Moying Martelino, directors Ricky Palou, Rhea Navarro, Norman Black, Nolan Bernardino, Chito Loyzaga, Iggy Yenko, Sonny Barrios and Elmer Yanga who will do the Invocation plus tournament commissioner Tony Boy Liao and Meggie Jose and Coochy Mamaclay, marketing director and brand manager, respectively, of Shakey's Pizza.

Highlighting today's inaugurals is the league's tribute to the late Sports Vision president Emilio "Jun" Bernardino, the former PBA commissioner under whose wings the tournament prospered.

With former UAAP MVP Desiree Hernandez and many-time Best Libero awardee Sharmaine Penano out of the La Salle fold, the Lady Archers will pin their hopes on the likes of Manilla Santos, Chi Saet, Carla Llaguno, Michelle Datuin, Jacklyn Alarca and new recruit Amy Guanco.

But focus will be on Areerat Sanorseang, La Salle's Thai reinforcement in the tournament, backed by Mikasa and Accel and telecast over NBN-4 from Monday to Sunday.

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena in San Juan*)
9 a.m.—SSC vs Letran
11 a.m.—Lyceum vs Ateneo
1 p.m.—Opening Ceremony
2 p.m.—La Salle vs Far Eastern U

MIKASA
MIKASA
MIKASA
La Salle
5
La Salle
3
MACATANGAY

WITH two key players graduating, La Salle will anchor its championship bid on Desiree Hernandez (No. 3). Hernandez, seen here as she thwarts a kill by San Sebastian's Jinni Modejar (No. 6) in one of the games last season, will try to stretch the Lady Archers' title run to four. PDI PHOTO

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Pampanga Lending Center
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the purchase on **CASH BASIS** of the properties listed below will be received at the Office of the Assistant Vice President, **Pampanga Lending Center, LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**, 3rd Floor Freluz Bldg., Olongapo-Gapan Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga not later than **May 31, 2007 (Thursday) 10:00 AM** at which place, date and time said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

DESCRIPTION/LOCATION		MINIMUM BID
(SITE 1) Two (2) parcels of land (Lots 21 & 22 of Blk. 7, LRC Pcs-12678) situated in the Bo. of Dau, Municipality of Mabalacat, Province of Pampanga, containing an aggregate area of 1,935 sqms., registered with the Pampanga Registry of Deeds under TCT Nos. 516810-R & 516811-R in the name of the LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES including improvements erected thereon, re (224 sqm. 2-storey Hotel Bldg., 870 sqm., 2-storey apartment-type Drive-Inn Bldg., 302 sqm., 2-storey apartment-type Drive-Inn Bldg. No. 2, 73 sqm. restaurant bldg.)	P	6,835,504.00
(SITE 2) Three (3) parcels of land (Lots 34, 35 & 36 all of Blk. 7, LRC, Pcs-12678) situated in Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga containing an aggregate area of 1,513 sqms. registered with the Pampanga Registry of Deeds under TCT Nos. 516808-R, 516807-R & 516809-R in the name of the LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES including a 530 sqm. apartment-type lodging house.	P	4,075,494.00
(SITE 3) A parcel of land (Lots 16, Blk 7, LRC, Pcs-12678) situated in Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga containing an area of 678 sqms. registered with the Pampanga Registry of Deeds under TCT No. 516812-R in the name of the LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES including a 288 sqm. single storey commercial structure.	P	2,371,680.00

Bid forms, Rules and Regulations may be obtained from the Office of the Assistant Vice President, Pampanga Lending Center, **LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, 3rd Floor, Freluz Building, Olongapo-Gapan Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.** *Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-cited properties before entering their bid.*

The sale of the above-mentioned property/ies is at an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded property/ies without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) **SVP CECILIA C. BORROMEO**
(Chairman, HOCAD)

(PDI–May 17, 18 & 19, 2007)

St. Joseph-QC seeks 2nd win

AFTER LOOKING SHARP in its initial outing, St. Joseph College-Quezon City guns for a second straight victory when it faces ICA-Greenhills in the Shakey's Girls' Volleyball League at the Ateneo Blue Eagle gym in Katipunan.

St. Joseph and ICA-Greenhills lock horns at 1:30 p.m. and after an hour, Imus-based Pag-Ibig Unida also shoots for a second straight victory against Valenzuela High.

Grace Christian School battles Holy Family School at 3:30 p.m. and St. Francis of Assisi takes on Diliman Preparatory School (DPS) at 4:30 p.m.

Powered by Janine Marciano and Crystle Esplana, who combined for 57 points built around 21 kills, St. Joseph looked razor-sharp in a clinical 25-20, 25-8 dismissal of Assumption College.

"Our opponents are tall and they have an RP Youth player," said Marciano of today's game. "But we will try our best. We'll just try to take it to three sets."

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Pascua, Ilustre eye funds to back Olympic dream

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DIANE PASCUA AND Heidi Ilustre already know they are in the RP Olympic training program.

What the two beach volleybelles are not sure about is whether they will get funding while they prepare for next year's Beijing Games.

The Filipino-American duo is set to visit the country on May 19 to clear their status with the Philippine Sports Commission, which earlier announced that it would shoulder the Olympic training.

Philippine Volleyball Federation secretary general Otie Camangian yesterday said they will try to get an audience with the agency during their stay here.

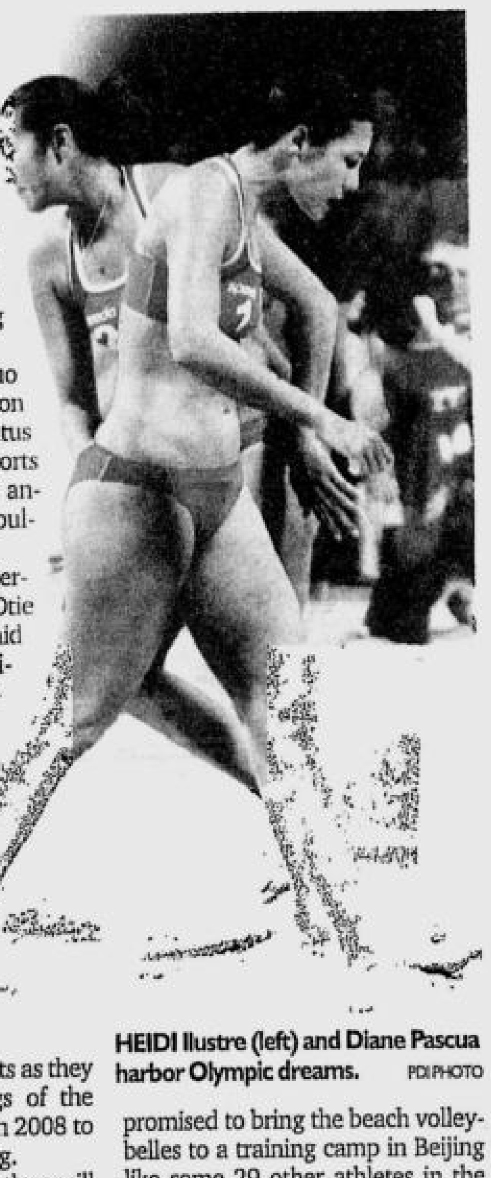
The 2005 Southeast Asian Games bronze winners won't be staying long here, according to Camangian, as they will compete in the second leg of the World Tour in Sentosa.

Pascua and Ilustre need to earn as many points as they can in at least eight legs of the World Tour this year and in 2008 to be able to make it to Beijing.

"They want to know if they will be funded by the PSC when they compete in the World Tour legs, which will serve as their passport to the Olympics," Camangian told the Inquirer.

So far, Camangian said the PSC promised to bring the beach volleybelles to a training camp in Beijing like some 29 other athletes in the Olympic program.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez didn't reply to text messages but has thrown support to the beach volleyball program during early interviews.



HEIDI Ilustre (left) and Diane Pascua harbor Olympic dreams. PDI PHOTO

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RP posts BOP surplus of $282M in April

Forex reserves reach all-time high of $25B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES POSTED a balance-of-payments surplus of $282 million in April, bringing the four-month total to $1.7 billion, on strong foreign exchange inflows particularly from overseas Filipino workers.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday that the surplus for April was a reversal of the $277-million deficit incurred in the same period last year, although the four-month windfall was slightly lower than the $1.84-billion surplus a year ago.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said: "The April surplus was achieved notwithstanding the loan prepayments of BSP and the national government."

In April, the BSP preterminated $130 million in loans originally maturing in October 2007 and April 2008 while the national government also settled $126 million in remaining Brady bonds originally maturing in June 2018.

RP POSTS/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

JG Summit, Alliance Global post higher profits /B4

Bangko Sentral urges banks to lend more /B5

Despite snags, investments pouring into tourism

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Conclusion)

SPECIAL REPORT

ON THE TOP OF A HILL IN BATANGAS CITY, two hours drive from Manila, sits Hotel Pontefino, which markets itself as the only five-star hotel south of the capital.

The fact that there are so few luxury accommodations in the area is no accident, visits to Batangas for business or pleasure are still generally considered "day trips" by many visitors. Of late, however, Pontefino's staff have been working overtime to satisfy demand from foreign and local visitors.

"There are days when we are at 100-percent capacity," says the hotel's chief operating officer, Danny Cabulay. "We have a steady stream of expatriate businessmen and tourists coming in."

The hotel's biggest clients are multinational firms which do business in the area. They book up to half of its 60 rooms in one go for weeks at a time. "Because of this demand, we are now looking at expanding our facilities," the hotel manager adds.

Near-record high occupancy

Pontefino's situation is not unique. All over the country, hotel bookings are up, according to the Department of Tourism. It's latest data shows that hotel occupancy in Metro Manila alone—for all types of hotels—hit an average of 71.9 percent in 2006. The rate is even higher in the de luxe hotel segment, with an occupancy rate of 73.6 percent. Overall, the present occupancy rates are at levels unseen since the late 1980s, and significantly better

DESPITE/ B2

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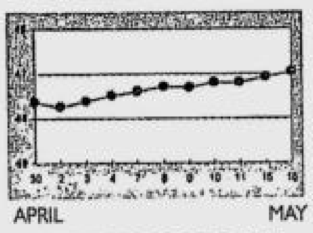

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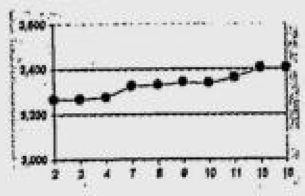
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES CLOSED FLAT YESTERDAY as investors chose to take profits after the market hit an all-time high, dealers said.

They said the Philippine bourse has finally caught up with its regional peers, all of which have been smashing records as they returned to highs last seen just before the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

The composite index added just 0.47 points to 3,409.20, its best closing level since Feb. 4,1997, when it settled at 3,398.89.

During the session, the index was at one point up more than one percent for an intraday record of 3,451.73 points.

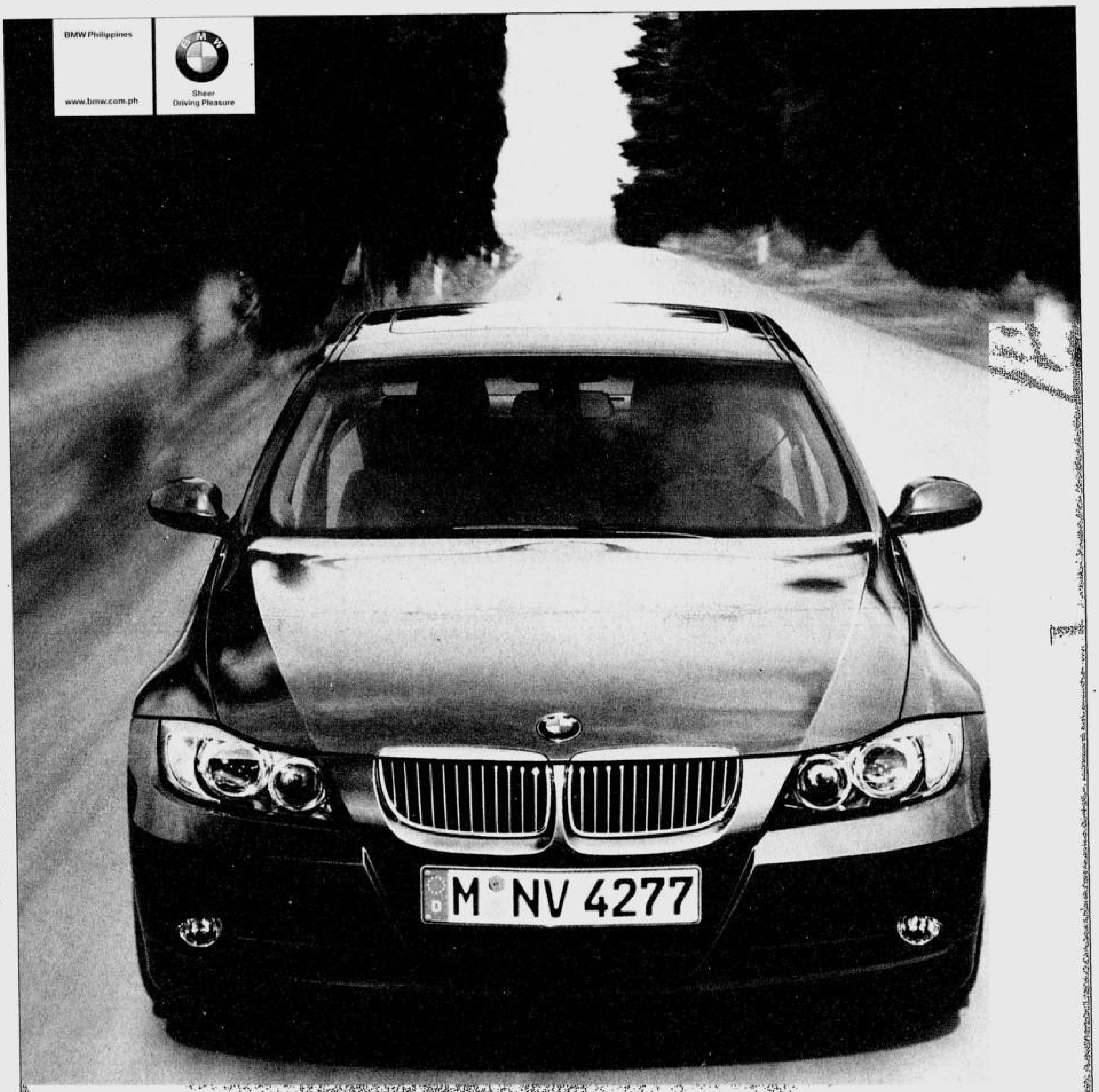
The broader all-share index was up 4.54 points or 0.2 percent at 2,178.19.

Losers just led gainers 59 to 58, with 51 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 5.1 billion shares worth P6 billion.

"The market will retest the all-time high but it had to take a breather to consolidate and build a stronger base," said Gomer Tan, an analyst at Reginal Capital Development Corp.

SHARES/ B4



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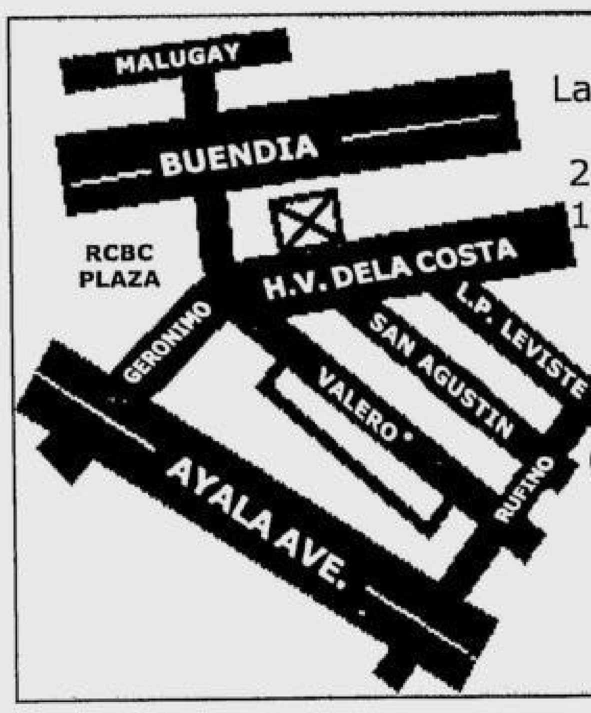

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Despite snags . . .

From page B1

than the average 50-percent occupancy rate seen from 1998 to 2002.

"The hotel business is doing very well nowadays," Tourism Secretary Ace Durano said in an interview. "In fact, it's doing so well that many of them are already expanding."

The tourism chief hopes to help the industry attract as many as 3.1 million tourists by the end of 2007, but he knows that existing facilities are already groaning under the weight of present tourist arrival rates.

"The industry is in a virtuous cycle," he says, referring to available first-class accommodation around the country. "We expect to see 3,000 new 'applicable' rooms this year to add to the 3,000 already present."

Accommodation shortage

If the country is to achieve its target of five million foreign tourists by 2010, however, many more rooms and hotels would have to be built.

"We need thousands of new rooms every year because expansion programs have a two- to three-year gestation period," Durano points out.

Local businessmen seem to be listening.

Recently, Ayala Land Inc. unveiled a plan to build three luxury hotels in the Makati central business district, partnering with Saudi-owned leisure developer Kingdom Hotel Investments. The project will cost at least P7.4 billion and is the biggest single investment in the industry in recent years, according to company officials.

Not to be outdone, SM Investments Corp. (SMIC)—long associated with developing shopping malls—has also jumped onto the tourism bandwagon with two feet, setting aside P5 billion for its Hamilo Coast project in Batangas province. Company officials say that once completed, the project will be a tourist enclave twice the size of Macau.

"We are targeting mainly the high-end domestic market, OFWs [overseas Filipino workers] and also foreign tourists," says SMIC executive vice president Josefino Lucas. "We already have a good market base with many of our customers in Tagaytay Highlands, and the home buyers of SM Development."

Other companies are following suit, with even holding firm A. Soriano Corp. unveiling a plan to invest $20 million in the tourism business, to add to its existing portfolio of beach resort operations.

New investments

The Board of Investments has also gotten into the fray, recently granting tax perks to several foreign hotel developers planning to set up operations in the country.

The potential benefits are tremendous. Durano points out that foreign tourists spend an average of $90 for each day they stay in the country. Most stay for at least a week. Last year, the country earned $2.7 billion in direct receipts alone from foreign tourists.

The tourism chief says that this amount excludes the multiplier effect on the economy, given that each tourist that flies into the country indirectly helps create one job in the service sector.

This is even compounded by receipts from domestic tourism and OFWs and "Balikbayans" who also contribute to the strength of the industry.

So what's holding the industry back?

Durano's answer echoes the sentiments of most players in the tourism business.

"It really depends on our capacity," he says, explaining that the transportation and accommodation infrastructure must be in place before the country can profit more from the ongoing global travel boom.

Durano declines, however, to put the blame squarely on the local airline industry, which has been accused of stunting tourism with its protectionist tendencies.

"We need these two sectors to grow together," he says, explaining that it is pointless to build more rooms when there are not enough flights to fly in potential hotel occupants, while it is also pointless to fly in tourists when hotel rooms are still lacking. "It has to be calibrated," he says.

The debate over access, notwithstanding, Durano says it is clear that the industry holds significant potential upside for the country and the business sector.

As the tourism chief notes: "This is our next boom industry and it has already started."

RP posts BOP surplus . . .

From page B1

The Brady bonds, a bitter reminder of the country's debt crisis years, have become more expensive compared to newer global bond floats as interest rate spreads tightened over the years following improvements in the government's fiscal position.

Tetangco said the four-month BOP surplus was attributable mainly to the double-digit growth in OFW remittances, strong exports, sustained inflows of foreign direct and portfolio investments and the national government's pre-funding of its foreign exchange requirements this year.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the local economy and the rest of the world. Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP while any which gives rise to a receipt like borrowing, exporting or inward remittance is a surplus item.

The country's BOP surplus also reflected the rise in the gross international reserves to a record $25 billion as of end-April.

The GIR, a key indicator of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy, consists of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund.

The Philippines' biggest source of dollar inflows is the large pool of overseas workers whose monthly remittances have breached the $1-billion mark since May 2006.

Based on the latest BSP report, money sent home by OFWs through the banking system surged 26.4 percent to $1.3 billion in March from a year ago despite the slowdown in the deployment of additional workers abroad.

It was the third consecutive month of double-digit growth in OFW inflows, bringing the first-quarter remittances to $3.5 billion or 24-percent higher than the level in the same period last year.

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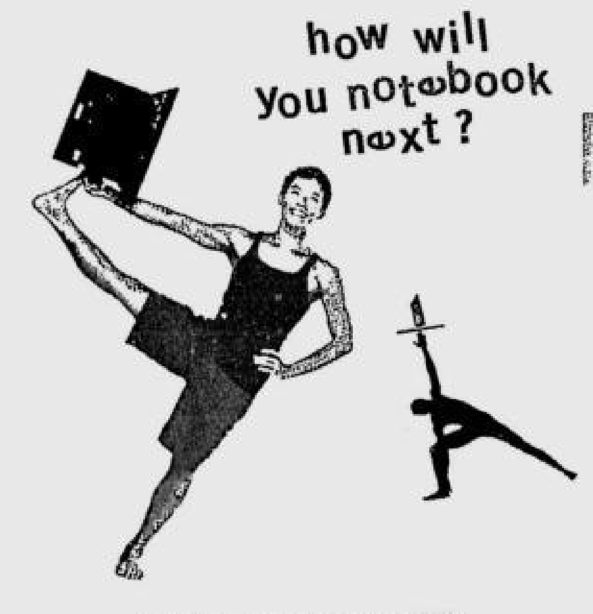
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Clark airport aims for 5M travelers a year as tourism industry booms

By Riza T. Olchondra

WITH LOCAL TOURISTS MAKING AIR TRAVEL boom, officials of the Clark International Airport Authority (CIAC) said the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) was ripe for capacity expansion to five million passengers a year from the present one million travellers.

As of March this year, more than 50 flights a week going to 10 Asian cities went through the DMIA. By year's end, this is expected to expand to 75 weekly flights to 10 cities.

From 2004 to 2006, DMIA also realized 456-percent growth in international passenger traffic. From 6,197 passengers a month in 2004, it rose to more than 60,000 passengers monthly in 2006.

Hilarion D. Nacpil, CIAC manager for marketing and customer service, said that until recently, only one of four air travellers going through the DMIA were local tourists.. With the boom in budget air travel last year, however, every other passenger at the DMIA was either a resident or worker in Northern and Central Luzon.

He said this has resulted in a budget air travel boom, which he said did not necessarily mean losses for existing airlines such as flag carrier Philippine Airlines.

"A few passengers of (existing) airlines may have opted for budget travel when it became available, but those with the ability to pay for a more luxurious service would not really go for budget. It can be said that the passenger pie is just getting bigger, with a new local market being tapped, and the incumbents' share are not necessarily getting smaller," he explained.

CIAC president and CEO Victor I. Luciano said, however, that the DMIA was also getting ready to serve airlines that offer more luxurious services. He said the entry of Miascor-Gate Gourmet as a provider of inflight catering services would help the DMIA serve this sector.

"It is all coming together, with more airlines and air forwarding companies coming in, accommodations ready at Clark resorts, and employment growing with Clark locators such as UPS (United Parcel Service) and semiconductor maker Texas Instruments, Clark and surrounding areas will see airport-driven development. That is DMIA's role," he said.

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Gov't efforts seen to slow drug sector's growth

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL AND healthcare market is expected to grow by only half over the next five years to $3.21 billion or some P151 billion due to government efforts to promote low-cost drugs.

According to a study made by Dublin-based business research firm Research and Markets titled "Philippines Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Report Q1 2007," the sector had posted "steady but unspectacular growth in recent years."

In 2006, Research and Markets said the local market was valued at an estimated $2.14 billion or some P100 billion.

"While an improving economic performance will help the drug industry continue to develop, the value of the pharmaceutical market would suffer from various government initiatives designed to encourage the use of low-cost medicines," the firm said in a statement.

Research and Market cited the encouragement of parallel imports from India and Pakistan, the facilitation of generics entry into the market and the pending introduction of compulsory licensing for public health emergencies.

Compulsory licensing means patent holders will give up their monopoly in making and selling their medicines when public interest demands the immediate provision of adequate supply, such as during an epidemic.

"In terms of market segmentation, generics remain underrepresented at only around 3 percent of the total by value due to widespread counterfeit activity and the lack of compliance with and enforcement of generic regulations," the company said.

"While branded medicines remain preferred by the segment of the population able to afford them, the government is making a concerted effort to bring prices down, with austerities viewed as inevitable by almost all market watchers," it added.

The study cited the efforts of state-owned Philippine International Trading Corp. to expand its program to bring low-priced medicine from abroad, with Pakistan having been identified as an added source of imports.

Earlier this month, PITC filed a petition with the Intellectual Property Office for the cancellation of Pfizer's patent for Norvasc, an anti-hypertensive drug.

PITC said that Norvasc sells locally at about P45 a tablet while it could be bought from Pakistan at P10 each.

"The adjusted Business Environment Rankings for Asia reveal that the Philippines is in 12th place, ahead only of Vietnam and Pakistan," Research and Markets said.

"The country has received this score primarily due to its poor regulatory system, which does not provide effective patent 'linkage' and fails to take adequate action against counterfeit drugs," it added.

The study added that the country was "rife with corruption, which will continue to hamper efforts to achieve better business operating environment in the Philippines."

The study noted that multinational drug makers, which dominate the market, have fiercely opposed government cost-containment measures, claiming that it discourages investment by innovator companies.

"The foreign drug makers are also critical of widely acknowledged government protection of the indigenous industry and underfunding of regulatory agencies," the firm said.

"Nevertheless, the government relies on domestic producers and products to support the healthcare system, and is therefore unlikely to introduce legislation that threatens the stability of this supply line," it said.

Still, the study showed that harmonization among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and gradual alignment with international norms should improve market conditions in the longer term.

Fake drugs are a severe problem, with much of the large low-income population tempted to buy illegal products due to relatively high-branded medicine prices," the company said.

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JG Summit, Alliance Global post higher profits

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TWO HOLDING FIRMS—ALLIANCE Global Group Inc. of real estate tycoon Andrew Tan and JG Summit Holdings of taipan John Gokongwei Jr.—reported robust earnings in the first quarter, driven by revenues from real estate, food and beverage and a turnaround in airline operations.

However, Benpres Holdings Corp. of the Lopezes reported a decline in net income by 64 percent to P731 million in the first quarter from P2.05 billion in the same period last year, largely due to the 67-percent fall in equity in net earnings of subsidiaries to P632 million from P1.93 billion in the same quarter last year.

Alliance Global said in its report to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its consolidated net profit soared 443 percent to P955 million in the first three months.

AGI's total consolidated revenues climbed 218 percent to P5.8 billion in the first quarter from P1.82 billion a year ago.

Megaworld Corp., a 46-percent owned company of AGI, recently announced that its net income grew by 30 percent to P784 million in the first quarter compared to the same period last year. The condominium and office developer's total revenues jumped 43 percent to P2.9 billion from P1.99 billion on the back of its P1.85 billion in real estate sales in the first quarter, which were up 54 percent from a year ago.

AGI also holds 49 percent in the second biggest fast food business in the Philippines through its investment in Golden Arches Development Corp. (GADC), the master franchise holder of McDonald's in the country.

GADC's net income in the first quarter surged 301 percent to P64 million. AGI said GADC's successful marketing initiatives, particularly the coupon promotions, and more stores this quarter paid off. GADC is planning to go public in the second half of the year.

AGI's 100-percent subsidiary, Emperador Distillers Inc. (EDI), contributed a net income of P245 million in the first quarter of 2007. No comparative figures were available.

JG Summit, on the other hand, posted a recurring net income of P1.75 billion in the first quarter, up 160 percent from P670 million in the same period last year. The improvement in recurring net income was due to the record growth of Cebu Air Inc., the airline carrying the Cebu Pacific brand. Net earnings of Cebu Pacific staged a turnaround to P559.8 million in the first quarter from a net loss of P92.9 million in the same period last year.

The continued increase in the net income contributions of branded snacks food company Universal Robina Corp. and property developer Robinsons Land Corp. also supported the quarter's robust performance. Revenues from telecommunications and petrochemicals businesses, however, continued to lag as revenues declined 4 percent and 60 percent, respectively.

The Lopezes' Benpres reported unaudited consolidated revenues of P4.18 billion in the first three months of 2007, 6 percent higher than the P3.95 billion in the same period last year. Net income attributable to the equity holders of the parent decreased by 64 percent to P731 million from P2.05 billion primarily due to the 67-percent fall in equity in net earnings of subsidiaries to P632 million from P1.93 billion.

The 2006 figure included gains booked by affiliate First Philippine Holdings Corp. from the initial public offering of First Gen Corp. (First Gen) in February last year.

Without these one time gains recorded by FPHC, Benpres' net income attributable to parent equity holders in the first quarter of 2006 would have been P632 million.

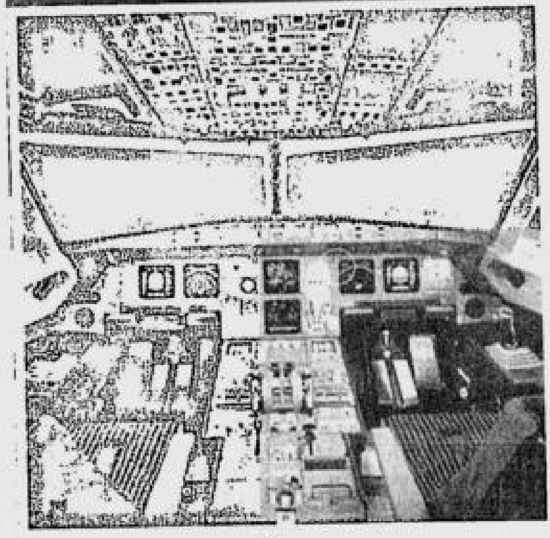
Shares close flat

From page B1

Ron Rodrigo, an analyst with Unicapital Securities, said caution may be the watchword in coming sessions with all eyes on the results of Monday's mid-term polls.

Vote counting in the polls, for half of the 24-seat Senate along with all of the 275-member House of Representatives and more than 18,000 local government posts, has just begun and is expected to take around 10 days.

AFP



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Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 29, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice of Meeting and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 30, 2006
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2006
5. Approval of the 2006 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation to withhold the stockholders' pre-emptive right to subscribe to any new or additional shares of the Bank
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 31, 2006 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 30, 2007 will be entitled to notice of, and vote at, this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2007. Any proxies so received will be validated by the Bank's Corporate Secretary on May 25, 2007, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, February 16, 2007

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

FLI profit jumps 64% to P252M

RESIDENTIAL DEVELoper Filinvest Land Inc. (FLI) said its net income in the first quarter jumped 64 percent to P252.26 million from P154.08 million last year.

In a disclosure, FLI president Joseph Yap said total net revenues reached P1.02 billion, an increase of 140 percent, due mainly to higher real estate sales, rental income and equity in net earnings of FLI's affiliate Filinvest Alabang Inc.

Real estate sales rose 46 percent to P816.5 million. Rental income surged to P226.7 million in the first quarter from P7.8 million in the same period in 2006 following its acquisition of Northgate Cyberzone, Festival Supermall, and PBCom Tower in September last year.

FLI's 20-percent ownership stake in FAI generated equity earnings of P285.9 million compared to P7.7 million in the first quarter of 2006. FAI realized a one-time extraordinary gain as a result of its successful secondary offering of shares.

As of March 31, total consolidated assets of FLI stood at P42 billion while stockholders' equity amounted to P35 billion. Last February, FLI raised P5.9 billion from the sale of shares to finance its development projects for the year. FLI has budgeted P5 billion in capital expenditure for 2007, of which P3.7 billion is earmarked for its residential developments and P1.3 billion for office projects.

The company said it remained optimistic over its growth as it embarks on an aggressive marketing campaign for 14 new projects scheduled for launching all over the country this year.

FLI is broadening its market reach by building condotels, medium-rise buildings and residential resort communities. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 16, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
1?5	5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc	12	12	11.75	11.75	1,200
73	42.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	67	68.5	67	67.5	3,314,200
65.5	30.5	Banco de Oro Universal Bank	62.5	64	62.5	64	3,088,500
935	630	China Banking Corp.	925	926	920	920	10,610
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	300
119	80	Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	110	113	110	112	193,200
0.83	0.38	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.54	1,840,000
68.5	29	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	64	64	63	63	4,027,200
65	30.5	Philippine National Bank	47	47	46.5	47	133,300
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	64	64	64	64	1,000
39.57	13.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	29	29.5	29	29	1,092,100
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	86	88	86	85	61,500
65.77	40.55	Union Bank of the Philippines	61.5	62	61.5	62	2,492,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
3.81	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	136,000
0.85	0.6	Bankard Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	300,000
7.7	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	55,000
0.8	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	200,000
39	27	First Metro Investment Corp.	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	10,200
2,000.00	1,600.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,660.00	1,680.00	1,645.00	1,660.00	1,120
5	4.15	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.35	4.4	4.25	4.3	10,212,000
2.4	0.97	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	30,000
1,005.00	200	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	810	810	570	570	1,080
2,250.00	1,805.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,140.00	2,170.00	2,140.00	2,170.00	990
1.94	1.02	Vantage Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.76	1,808,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
0.37	0.16	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	360,000
62.5	41	First Gen Corp.	59	60	58.5	58.5	1,412,800
82.5	40.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	76.5	76.5	73	73	860,500
12.75	6.6	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12	12	12	12	7,326,000
82	13	Manila Electric Co. "A"	80.5	80.5	77	78	203,300
82.5	20.25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	81	81	77	77.5	1,847,100
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	47,921,000
5.7	3.35	Petron Corp.	5.1	5.2	5	5	16,321,000
1.62	0.89	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	1,820,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp	5.5	5.9	5.4	5.9	6,076,000
2.06	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.14	2.2	2.12	2.2	852,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	14,000
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	54	53	53	794,500
1.62	0.69	RFM Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,240,000
4.06	2.34	Roxas Holdings	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	20,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	76	80	76	80	830,800
88	66	San Miguel Corp. "B"	87	87	86	86	628,200
22.5	15.75	Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	15.75	18	3,134,900
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.3	1.07	EEI Corp	5.2	5.3	5	5.2	8,636,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.2	1,503,000
7	1.1	Republic Cement Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	343,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.82	1.88	3,847,000
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc	6.1	6.2	6	6.1	4,100,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.33	0.06	[illegible] Resources Inc	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	6,967,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
4.05	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	613,000
0.0925	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	6,100,000
0.97	0.17	APC Group Inc.	0.92	0.97	0.91	0.92	227,060,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.88	45,000
3.3	1.46	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	80,000
0.018	0.006	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	240,200,000
0.019	0.0085	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	5,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.8	3,111,000
0.016	0.0065	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.016	0.014	0.014	468,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2	1,808,000
1.04	0.45	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	230,000
2.26	0.83	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.1	2.14	7,719,000
680	327.5	Ayala Corp.	610	620	600	605	418,410
14	7.92	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	2,300
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.7	4.75	4.65	4.7	600,000
4.45	0.97	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.95	4	3.75	3.85	8,863,000
9.1	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9	9	8.5	8.6	4,994,000
6	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	2,255,000
0.42	0.13	Forum Pacific Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	600,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	14,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12	12.25	12	12	1,668,400
0.88	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
13.25	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	12.5	13	12	12	1,029,800
4.55	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.4	4.4	4	4.2	6,200,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.7	3.65	3.7	240,000
0.48	0.155	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	2,910,000
407.5	205	SM Investments Corp.	395	405	395	402.5	873,220
2.2	0.6	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
0.51	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.47	0.49	0.45	0.46	161,420,000
0.85	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	30,000
1.38	0.68	South China Resources Inc.	1.32	1.34	1.3	1.32	282,000
0.41	0.05	Uniol Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,010,000
1.68	0.76	Vivant Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	1,000
0.24	0.06	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.17	0.175	8,200,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc	1.56	1.66	1.56	1.62	5,690,000
18.75	10.25	Ayala Land Inc.	18	18.5	17.75	18	23,923,100
1.72	0.95	Belle Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.4	24,172,000
3.1	1.18	C and P Homes Inc.	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.9	2,887,000
4.5	1.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	348,000
2	1	Cebu Property Venture and Dev't Corp. "A"	1.7	1.8	1.68	1.8	200,000
0.54	0.24	Crown Equities Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	1,240,000
0.54	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.51	6,750,000
0.31	0.14	EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	500,000
3.1	0.64	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2,749,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.79	23,890,000
0.195	0.027	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.175	0.18	62,900,000
1.12	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.77	0.8	6,120,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.74	1.82	1.74	1.8	54,275,000
0.33	0.05	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	270,000
0.33	0.0525	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	25,200,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	4,140,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.73	1,940,000
0.034	0.011	Marsteel Consolidated Inc. "A"	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	800,000
0.036	0.014	Marsteel Consolidated Inc. "B"	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	800,000
3.95	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	3.8	3.95	3.8	3.9	206,170,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	526,000
0.26	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.185	0.185	4,520,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.62	4,680,000
3.5	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	2.65	2.9	2.65	2.8	59,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	19	19.5	18.75	19.25	15,170,900
5.2	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.1	5.2	5	5	1,578,000
13	6.9	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.5	12	12	17,755,000
0.27	0.05	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.235	0.215	0.215	23,590,000
1.74	0.3	Zipperah Realty Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.44	1.32	1.34	2,038,000
		MEDIA					
31.5	13.5	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	199,400
1.14	0.97	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	3,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	4,644,000
1,445.00	820	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,340.00	1,355.00	1,340.00	1,340.00	125,800
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,565.00	2,575.00	2,545.00	2,545.00	105,440
7.9	3.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	2,217,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.155	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	16,900,000
9	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	7.7	8.5	7.7	8.3	387,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	7	7	6.8	6.9	431,000
0.075	0.046	ISM Communications Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	6,200,000
0.033	0.011	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.028	7,300,000
2.9	1.5	Ionics Inc.	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.28	231,000
0.0675	0.036	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	2,000,000
1.84	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.46	276,000
0.06	0.025	PhilWeb.Com Inc	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.049	86,400,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.1	2.1	365,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.88	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.56	1.62	1.56	1.6	303,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	455,000
32	12.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	28	28.5	27.5	28.5	3,361,100
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	2	2	1.98	1.98	1,040,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp	4	4.05	3.9	3.9	2,360,000
5	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.4	5	4.4	5	14,000
0.54	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.48	0.48	3,660,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.99	1	0.97	0.99	4,210,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	3,000
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	22,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
4.35	1.84	Macroasia Corp	4.15	4.15	4.05	4.05	1,386,000
16.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.75	16.25	15.25	15.5	3,722,600
30	9.5	Paxys Inc	27.5	27.5	26.5	27	31,100
50	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc	47	47	47	47	200
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	154,300,000
7.6	2.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	1,248,000
7.7	2.55	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	7	7	6.9	6.9	801,000
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	134,700
4	1.62	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
2.2	0.0602	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.12	2.16	2.08	2.1	30,515,000
0.4	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	8,250,000
0.44	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,370,000
0.037	0.0154	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.035	294,000,000
0.04	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.038	167,300,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.019	0.02	1,045,700,000
5.6	2.65	Philex Mining Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.4	8,366,000
30.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27.5	28	238,000
0.87	0.25	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	160,000
1.8	0.41	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.38	1.4	12,109,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.23	Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.39	0.43	0.39	0.42	31,890,000
0.018	0.008	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	172,100,000
0.019	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	90,400,000
14.81	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.75	11	10.25	10.25	209,900
0.018	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	1,127,800,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

CURRENCIES

May 16, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.735781	1.000000	47.0120
Japan	Yen	0.006119	0.008317	0.3910
United Kingdom	Pound	1.460673	1.985200	93.3282
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094146	0.127954	6.0154
Switzerland	Franc	0.605532	0.822978	38.6898
Canada	Dollar	0.669805	0.910332	42.7965
Singapore	Dollar	0.485408	0.659718	31.0147
Australia	Dollar	0.613509	0.833820	39.1995
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.951725	2.652590	124.7036
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.196192	0.266645	12.5355
Brunei	Dollar	0.483812	0.657549	30.9127
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000114	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.022229	0.030211	1.4203
UAE	Dirham	0.200327	0.272264	12.7997
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.359100	63.8940
Korea	Won	0.000796	0.001082	0.0509
China	Yuan**	0.095720	0.130093	6.1159
Argentina	Peso	0.239473	0.325468	15.3009
Brazil	Real	0.369962	0.502816	23.6384
Denmark	Kroner	0.134184	0.182369	8.5735
India	Rupee	0.018105	0.024606	1.1568
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216374	0.294074	13.8250
Mexico	New Peso	0.068122	0.092584	4.3526
New Zealand	Dollar	0.543212	0.738280	34.7080
Norway	Kroner	0.122353	0.166290	7.8176
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012112	0.016461	0.7739
South Africa	Rand	0.106669	0.144974	6.8155
Sweden	Kroner	0.108765	0.147822	6.9494
Syria	Pound	0.014174	0.019264	0.9056
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022060	0.029982	1.4095
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000343	0.000466	0.0219

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—May 15, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of May 15, 2007

Banco de Oro, EPCIB post sharp rise in Q1 profits

By Doris C. Dumlao

RETAIL TYCOON HENRY SY'S Banco de Oro Universal Bank and Equitable PCI Bank, whose merger will soon create the country's second largest bank, reported sharp increases in net profits in the first quarter of the year.

BDO posted a consolidated net income of P838 million for the first quarter, up by 19 percent over year-ago level, while EPCIBank reported a profit of P937 million or 32 percent higher than a year-ago.

"We're very pleased that, amid the hectic integration planning activities, both banks are proving their mettle and performing beyond expectations," said BDO president and EPCIB officer-in-charge Nestor V. Tan. "And this is just the beginning."

He attributed the higher earnings to the steady contribution of net interest income, a healthy growth in non-interest income, and conscious cost control.

Tan noted that BDO had pursued vigorous expansion in its investment and loan portfolios, thus successfully bracing itself for the lower interest rate environment.

BDO posted a net interest income of P2.22 billion, or a 27 percent year-on-year increase. Its other income also improved by 60 percent, reaching P1.88 billion for the quarter.

Trading and foreign exchange gains grew by 30 percent to P919 million, while service charges and fees more than doubled to P891 million on account of higher business volumes.

He said the combination of an enhanced distribution network and aggressive marketing efforts improved BDO's funding mix and increased the deposit base by 33 percent year-on-year to P220.04 billion, while also feeding the growth in earning assets.

Bangko Sentral urges banks to lend more

By Michelle V. Remo

Loan growth should match rise in savings rate–Tetangco

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS said bank lending should grow by double-digit levels so the economy could maximize the growth potential of the country's rising savings rate.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the 27-30 percent increase in savings rate—the ratio between aggregate savings and the country's gross domestic product—should be matched by a much higher growth in lending.

The BSP earlier reported that bank lending grew in March by only 9.9 percent to P1.98 trillion from year-ago level. This, according to Tetangco, was not commensurate with the increase in savings rate.

The BSP said the rise in bank lending in the first three months was due to higher loans provided to financial institutions; real estate firms; services firms; community, social and personal services sectors; agriculture sector; and wholesale and retail trade sectors.

He said bank lending growth should reach double-digit levels to maximize the opportunities arising from a rising savings rate.

"An increase in savings will not translate to higher economic growth if the money lodged in banks will not be lent out to benefit more businesses," he said.

Tetangco said the BSP was urging banks to be more aggressive in lending by providing more credit to the small and medium enterprises rather than concentrating their resources mainly on large corporate clients.

But the BSP chief said the relatively weak bank lending could not solely be attributed to unwillingness of some banks to increase lending, but also because demand was not as brisk as it should be given the low interest-rate environment and the increase in savings.

"If the economy is growing and if demand for loans is increasing, then banks will respond to that," Tetangco said.

He explained that the availability of other sources of financing, such as the issuance of corporate bonds, could partly explain why bank lending was not growing as it should be.

But Tetangco added that banks could be encouraged to be more aggressive to lend if Congress would pass a pending bill seeking the creation of a credit information bureau.

Tetangco said the BSP was hoping Congress could pass the bill upon the resumption of regular sessions.

The proposed credit information bureau will provide a database on the credit backgrounds of bank clients. This facility is intended to help banks to identify high- and low-credit risk borrowers that could guide them in making decisions as to whom to lend.

"It is not just the monetary authority that could encourage banks to lend more," Tetangco said.

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Malampaya oil issues remain unresolved

AFTER MONTHS OF DISCUSSIONS, the bidding for the contract to develop the Camago-Malampaya oil leg is still not expected to take place any time soon, as a number of issues concerning the gas reserves remain unresolved.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said PNOC Exploration Corp. continued to hold discussions with other Malampaya consortium members—Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Chevron Malampaya LLC—on how the remaining issues could be sorted out.

"There are still issues being threshed out. They're still the same issues—indemnity, insurance, technical requirements," he said.

All these issues would have to be resolved before the contract is bid out, to ensure that there would be no conflict between the Malampaya consortium members and the future developer of the oil rim.

Also, during the development of the oil leg, the gas reserves would have to be protected as it served as the fuel source for three of Luzon's main power sources: the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Ilijan, the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita, and the 500-MW San Lorenzo gas-fired power plants.

Lotilla said PNOC-EC was still evaluating the terms and conditions under which the contract would be bid out.

One of the things that PNOC-EC was looking at, he said, was the possibility of holding a prequalification process for prospective bidders.

The minimum technical and financial terms and conditions would have to be set, to ensure that only qualified entities would have a right to bid for the contract, he said.

These criteria would also prevent the government from "unnecessarily narrowing down its choices," he added.

Another thing that PNOC-EC was evaluating, he said, was whether or not the oil was still available for the taking.

"Assessments are being conducted to ensure that the oil will still be available. (PNOC-EC) is quite confident about that. PNOC-EC is seriously studying the prospects of the oil leg, as there have also been developments in technology for recovering the oil," he said. *Abigail L. Ho*

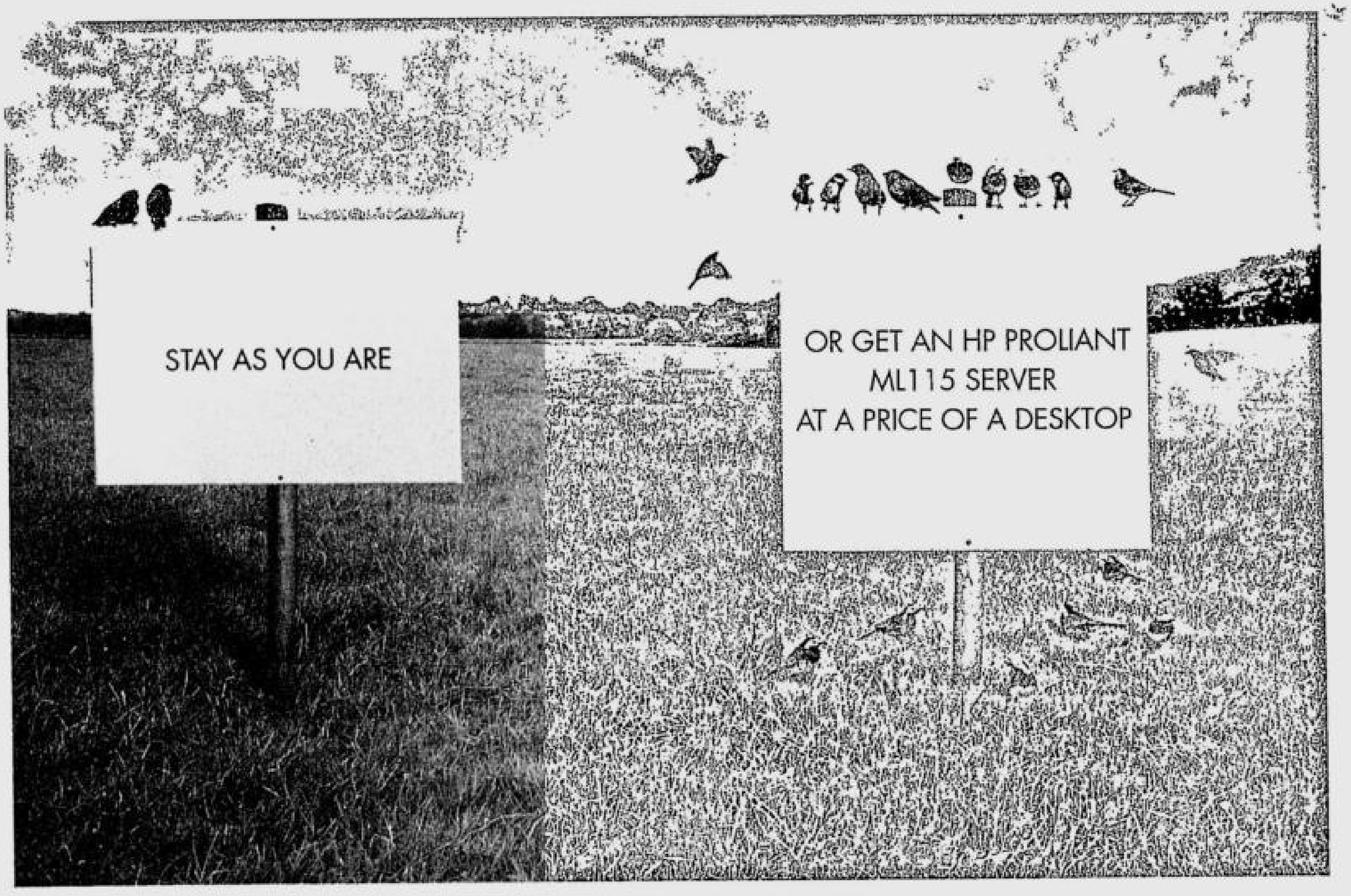
CEB hits 20M passengers

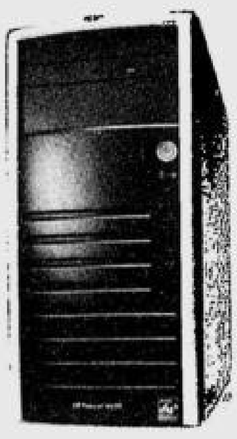
CEBU PACIFIC CARRIED ITS 20 millionth passenger in April 2007.

The airline which started operations in March 1996 has increased its yearly passenger traffic from 360,000 in its first year to almost 3.5 million passengers in 2006. It expects to carry more than five million passengers this year.

Candice Iyog, CEB VP for marketing and product, said the milestone showed CEB's continuing success to bring air travel closer to more Filipinos.

"We have taken a little more than 12 years to carry the first 20th million passengers. Based on our growth plans, we expect to carry the next 20 million in just 3 to 4 years," Iyog said.





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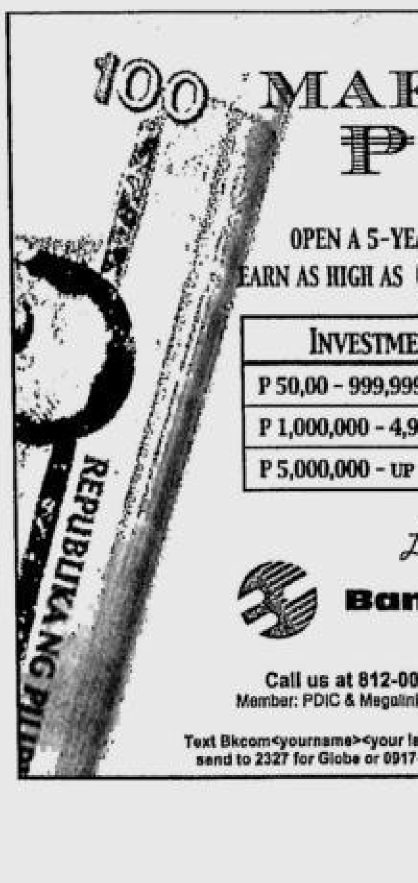

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ATI, ICTSI seen vying for cargo handling deal at Batangas Port

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE COUNTRY'S TWO MAJOR PORT operators—Asian Terminals Inc. and International Container Terminal Services Inc.—are preparing to bid for the cargo handling contract for the P5.5-billion second terminal of the Batangas Port, officials of the two firms said in separate interviews.

To be auctioned off is a 25-year cargo handling contract in the transport hub of Southern Luzon, which can accommodate 7,000 twenty-foot equivalent units of cargo at a time.

In an interview, ATI chair Bryan Smith said operating the second terminal at the Batangas Port would significantly boost the company's operations. He said the second terminal was bigger than the 20-hectare first phase. While the first phase caters only to passenger and domestic cargoes, the second terminal will handle a mix of bulk, break bulk and international containerized cargo.

Terminal 2 can handle bulk, international containerized cargo

ATI is currently operating in the first terminal at the Batangas Port, South Harbor, Mariveles and South Cotabato.

ICTSI, whose flagship port is the Manila International Container Terminal, also operates in Brazil, China, Ecuador, Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar, Poland, and Syria.

ICTSI chair and president Enrique K. Razon said in an earlier interview that his company had obtained initial documents for the Batangas Port terminal 2 bidding and was prepared to make an offer.

The two officials, however, declined to reveal the details of the offers they were preparing.

The Philippine Ports Authority is still gathering letters of intent (LOIs) from potential bidders.

In its bid bulletin, the PPA said the LOIs can be submitted until May 23, 2007 and the eligibility documents, until May 24, 2007. Afterwards, the PPA will choose seven companies who may bid for the management, operation, maintenance, development, and promotion of the new container terminal.

PPA said only companies with submitted LOIs and eligibility documents would be considered for shortlisting.

The port authority also reserved "the right to reject any or all bids, annul the bidding process, or award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders."

CHIYODA Philippines Manufacturing Corp. director Susana Oe, company president/CEO Michihiro Oe and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia B. de Lima lead the inauguration of Chiyoda's automobile wiring harness facility at the Lima Technology Center Special Economic Zone in Lipa City, Batangas. Also shown in the photo are samples of the wiring harnesses that the company will produce for export.

AXA Phils keen on acquiring small insurers

By Michelle V. Remo

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE INSURANCE CORP., which earlier reported a 224-percent increase in first quarter premium collection, said it was open to acquiring smaller insurance firms in trouble of meeting the increase in capitalization requirements set by regulators.

Andrew Alcid, president and chief operating officer of AXA Philippines, said a number of insurance firms had asked AXA to buy them out.

"We are interested in buying a company, but it has to be the right one. We have to look at their balance sheets, especially their liabilities," Alcid told the INQUIRER in an interview.

AXA, which is 55-percent owned by Metrobank and 45-percent by AXA Europe, said it generated P5 billion worth of premium payments in the first quarter of the year, up 224 percent from year-ago level.

Alcid said sources of growth during the first quarter were its investment-linked insurance products, aided by its bancassurance business. He said bancassurance, under which its insurance products are sold in Metrobank branches, accounted for about 75 percent of AXA Philippines' business.

AXA Philippines claimed its first-quarter performance made it the second-biggest revenue earner among the country's 34 life insurance firms following Philam Life, thus displacing Sunlife and Insular life. It was fourth in 2006.

The Insurance Commission earlier called on insurance firms to merge and asked larger firms to acquire those who can hardly meet the new capitalization requirements.

PhilNaRe Q1 income up 70%

NATIONAL REINSURANCE CORP. OF THE Philippines posted a net income of P174 million in the first quarter of the year, 70 percent more than last year's P102 million.

The profit rise was fueled by the 15.2-percent increase in reinsurance premiums over the same period last year to P723 million.

In spite of the low interest rate environment, investment and other income grew to P187 million in the first quarter of 2007, a 65 percent quarter-on-quarter gain from P113 million in 2006. The 2006 figure already included a one-time gain of P51 million arising from the merger between PhilNaRe and the BPI- and Yuchengco-led Universal Malayan Reinsurance Corp., which was completed in March 2006. Interest income increased by P16.3 million as a result of better yields on investments and fixed income securities.

The company said its general and administrative expenses were slightly higher at P29 million, up by 12 percent over the first quarter 2006. The combined performance of revenue and general and administrative expense components enabled a robust increase in net income to P174 million. This translates into earnings per share for the period of P0.12, higher by P0.03 or 33.3 percent than year-ago level.

SBC reports 36% growth in assets

SECURITY BANK AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES/affiliates has reported a 36-percent growth in assets in the first quarter to P137.4 billion.

Incremental funds came solely from deposits which soared 70 percent to P104.1 billion. The liquidity generated enabled the bank to unload its interbank borrowings, which plummeted by half. This substantially reduced the bank's cost of funds.

Excess funds were then channeled to loans, investments in government securities and placements with the Bangko Sentral.

Capital funds reached P12.5 billion, up by almost P2 billion. This included the bank's first quarter profit of P758 million, 40 percent higher than year-ago level. This, according to the bank, was made possible by an increase in earning assets funded largely by deposits.

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Coming soon: Agribusiness Mindanao

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS IN MINDANAO took fate into their own hands when some 500 of their representatives met for the first Mindanao Agri & Food Convention (MAFCON) held in Cagayan de Oro City last April 23-25, 2007.

The MAFCON ended with the leaders making a strong declaration of commitment and determination to pursue a unified private-sector-led development agenda for the Mindanao agriculture, fisheries and food industry.

"A momentous milestone," Convention Chairman Edwin Andot, President of the host Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industries of Northern Mindanao (CAFFINORMIN) exclaimed.

In his opening statement at the MAFCON, Andot said: "We have come to realize that unless we embrace the reality of a globalized market environment, unless we in the production sector upgrade our technologies and cultivation practices, unless we shift our mindset to be more entrepreneurial in our approach to our farms, we will not successfully hurdle the necessary leap from traditional production to the more profitable world of agribusiness."

The Department of Agriculture has allocated some P2.5 billion in irrigation funds over the next three years to service 175,000 hectares in Mindanao and another P5.5 billion to build over 3,400 kilometers of farm-to-market roads to develop a vibrant, competitive Agribusiness Mindanao Super Region.

Technical Support for Agri Business

Training in entrepreneurship was emphasized because farmers, fisherfolk and food processors were still at a disadvantage compared to traders who have ready access to market information.

Also, the producer associations recommended that an updated marketing information system for Mindanao's export winners as well as commodity export boards should be established and regularly funded by the government to provide that much-needed information.

Moreover, large-scale wholesale and/or auction markets need to be designed and established in strategic locations in Mindanao for a more transparent trading system.

This will bring about a systematic, clear, transparent, and vibrant market with defined players, standards, rules of clearing and settlement.

Strong government support in terms of resources and local ordinance is also needed.

One Mindanao wide Agri Body

The most significant result of the conference was the resolution calling for the associations to convene and draw up a Mindanao-wide network of agriculture and food producers.

This network is envisioned to take the lead role in pursuing a common agenda through policy advocacy, institutional networking and information sharing.

Thus, at the end of the MAFCON, these associations committed to undertake the following initiatives: endeavor to organize a Mindanao Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Industries, which will serve as the main advocacy group of local agri, fisheries and food producers; consolidate and update existing industry development plans to draw up a common private sector-led development agenda; establish and/or strengthen partnerships with other support groups such as donor institutions, non-government organizations, other industry associations to undertake programs and services beneficial to their respective industries.

Among the producer associations who supported these initiatives were CAFFINORMIN, SOCSKSARGEN Federation of Fishing & Allied Industries, MinFruit Council, NorminVeggies, Paglas Group of Companies, CARAGA Oil Palm Producers Association, Northern Mindanao Poultry Association, Higaonaon Tribal Council of Northern Mindanao, Greater Northern Mindanao Mango Development Foundation , Inc., Northern Mindanao Cassava Industry Association, Banana Industry Development Association Region 10, and Northern Mindanao Corn Producers Association.

Indeed, MAFCON has succeeded in becoming the main forum for discussing the ambitious Agribusiness Mindanao project

As Convention Director Marriz Agbon put it, "Being the brainchild of Mindanao's agricultural/rural communities, we see MAFCON growing to be the principal forum of exchange of experiences and technologies among Mindanao's agricultural producing sector. We envision a MAFCON emerging as the main avenue for crafting the development agenda of Mindanao agriculture. We are looking at a MAFCON as the priority trade stage for doing business with Mindanao agriculture."

I say that a convergence of initiatives led by the private sector warrants full support. And this group surely has all of us in Mindanao backing it up.

Onward, Agribusiness Mindanao!

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong and respected advocate for the development of the island. She is Chair of Joji Ilagan Foundation, Phil. Call Centers Alliance, Mindanao Tech Voc Schools Association; Mindanao Rep, Export Development Council. Email comments jojibian2@yahoo.com)

Megaworld to invest P2B in BPO tower

By Ronnel W. Domingo

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER MEGAWORLD Corp. yesterday said it had allotted P2 billion to speed up the construction of a two-tower, 15-storey business process outsourcing center in the Bonifacio Global City following the site's declaration as an information technology economic zone.

Dubbed "Two World Square," the project is the second BPO building to rise in Megaworld's 124-hectare McKinley Hill township development.

Last month, Malacañang issued Presidential Proclamation No. 1269, which declared 35 hectares of the area an IT park, which affords locators incentives, such as income tax holidays of up to eight years and exemption from duties and taxes on imported capital equipment.

Megaworld has just finished construction of the McKinley Hill's first BPO building—One World Square—which has 30,000 square meters of office space.

In a statement, Megaworld first vice president Jericho Go said the company expected demand for office space in McKinley to pick up following the proclamation.

"We expect to complete the Two World Square by September 2008," Go said. "Every level will have 1,500 square meters of prime office space and can be extended to as much as 3,000 square meters."

He said Two World Square would have round-the-clock facilities, 100-percent back-up power, high ceiling and scalable floor plate ideal for BPO operations.

"It would be connected to the planned 1,000-slot parking building and to the future Three World Square tower, which would offer another 25,000 square meters of BPO office space.

Megaworld has committed to construct two BPO buildings a year in the 14-hectare McKinley Hill Cyberpark up to 2014.

"The well-designed master plan of McKinley Hill allows the sound spacing of the office buildings, retail areas and residential communities making up the 50-hectare integrated community in the Bonifacio Global City," Go said.

He added that this helped attract strong interest for the One World Square, with locators set to move in this third quarter.

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Asian shares steady, but tech stocks under strain

Dow Jones index sets new record on tame inflation in US

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES held steady on Wednesday, supported by a new record high in Wall Street's Dow Jones index, but high-tech exporters such as Japan's NEC and South Korea's LG Electronics were pressured by a retreat on Nasdaq.

Britain's FTSE 100 index is expected to open 27-29 points lower, financial bookmakers said, with investors waiting for a Bank of England inflation report later in the day for clues on the outlook for interest rates.

Japan's Nikkei index crept up almost 0.1 percent in the lead up to earnings results, with auto shares such as Honda Motor Co. Ltd. propping up the market.

Investors are awaiting a Bank of Japan news conference on Thursday following a two-day policy meeting, and first-quarter growth data, also due on Thursday.

The BOJ is not expected to raise interest rates, which would slightly improve returns on the low-yielding yen. Many analysts expect a rate rise in the third quarter if the economy keeps growing at a steady pace.

Shares of NEC Corp. fell 2.3 percent after the electronics maker missed its group net profit forecast for the year by more than three quarters.

But Sony rebounded 1.25 percent after initial losses ahead of its results, which were released after the market close and showed annual profit fell 68 percent. It forecast steep growth this year that exceeded market expectations.

Japan's electrical machinery sub-index ended up 0.3 percent, recouping earlier losses following a 0.8-percent drop in the tech-heavy Nasdaq index amid renewed concern about US consumer spending.

"The market is almost flat as investors are making trade decisions mostly based on individual earnings results," said Ken Masuda, senior dealer in equities at Shinko Securities.

South Korean technology shares came under pressure, with LG Electronics Inc. down 1.2 percent and Samsung Electronics Co. eased 0.5 percent.

The Kospi, which suffered its biggest one-day percentage fall in a month on Tuesday, recovered on Wednesday by 0.7 percent.

Some analysts predict a markets correction following strong gains.

Asian markets are haunted by the late-February slump in Chinese markets that preceded a global sell-off.

"Overall the feeling is that the markets have risen too much. We may need to retreat a little bit more from these levels," said Kyobo Securities analyst, Park Sukhyun.

The Shanghai stock index fell a sharp 3.6 percent on Tuesday, but recouped 1.1 percent on Wednesday.

Investors snapped up shares of Belle International Holdings in record numbers, helping to raise $1.1 billion of China's top women's shoe retailer, by pricing its Hong Kong IPO at the top of an indicated range.

A slew of recent data, including figures showing a 17.4-percent annual surge in China's April factory output, could add impetus for Beijing to raise interest rates and take other measures to avoid overheating.

Hong Kong shares edged up 0.2 percent, while MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan gained 0.3 percent.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.28 percent to a record close—its 44th since the start of October 2006—as tame US inflation data left open the prospect for Federal Reserve interest rate cuts later in the year.

The US consumer price index for April, excluding food and energy, showed the smallest 12-month increase since April 2006.

But the Nasdaq and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index both fell as US home builder confidence sank in May.

Hopes for US rate cuts helped US Treasuries to edge up in Asia.

But Japanese government bond futures held steady as investors awaited the country's economic growth data. They believe firm first-quarter gross domestic product data would prompt the BOJ to raise the overnight call rate to 0.75 percent only in the third quarter from 0.5 percent. *Reuters*

China vows to take steps on trade surplus

BEIJING—CHINA VOWED ON Wednesday to take further measures to ease its booming trade surplus, but also called on the United States to treat it as an equal in an upcoming meeting between the two to discuss such tensions.

Vice Premier Wu Yi will lead a delegation of top officials to Washington next week for the second round of a "strategic economic dialogue" with the United States, at which the two are expected to discuss a range of economic and trade issues.

The United States has been pushing China to take more steps to trim its large surplus, including allowing the yuan to strengthen more quickly and opening up markets for a range of industries.

Wang Xinpei, spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce, told a news conference that China aimed to achieve basic balance in its international payments and was not deliberately pursuing a trade surplus but that it would take a "certain long period of time" for it to disappear.

"In the future, we will take further steps to optimize the trade structure and transform the growth model of trade," Wang said, adding that would include steps to promote exports of higher value-added products and services, while boosting imports of energy, raw materials, advanced technology and equipment.

"Meanwhile, we also hope that certain countries can scrap unreasonable curbs of high-tech exports to China so as to facilitate China to expand imports," he said.

The United States currently places restrictions on exports of some technology to China out of concern that it could be used in military applications.

Wang emphasized that the "strategic economic dialogue" with the United States was meant to be a platform to discuss long-term, comprehensive issues.

US lawmakers and officials have said repeatedly that they will be looking for tangible results from the meeting, as a marker of progress in the talks.

"We hope that the United States will hold to the principles of mutual respect and equal treatment in working on the second round of the China-US strategic economic dialogue, to step up coordination with China and ensure the success of the second round of talks," he said. *Reuters*

A CROWD of people rushing to work at a subway in central Beijing. Chinese retail sales in April rose 15.5 percent year-on-year, the National Bureau of Statistics said on May 15. China's booming economy will lift the nation to second place behind the United States as the world's biggest consumer market by 2015, a research report from Credit Suisse said recently. AFP PHOTO/TEH ENG KOON

US inflation slows in April

WASHINGTON—CONSUMER INFLATION moderated slightly in April even though motorists were socked with another big jump in gasoline prices. Outside of energy and food, inflation pressures remained well-contained.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that consumer prices rose by 0.4 percent last month following a 0.6-percent jump in March.

The April increase was slightly lower than Wall Street had been expecting and investors were cheered because core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy, edged up a slight 0.2 percent, the third month at this level or less after a worrisome 0.3-percent rise in January.

"The key aspect of this report is that the core inflation rate continues to moderate," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors.

Wall Street investors agreed, believing the better-than-expected reading on inflation would hasten the day when the Federal Reserve might start cutting interest rates to deal with an economy that has been battered by a significant slump in housing.

Through the first four months of this year, consumer inflation is rising at an annual rate of 4.8 percent, almost double the 2.5-percent increase for all of 2006. The acceleration has occurred in large part because of higher costs for food and energy.

However, excluding energy and food, core inflation is up at an annual rate of just 2.2 percent through April, an improvement from the 2.6-percent rise in core prices for all of 2006. *AP*

Chrysler to still use Daimler technology

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—Chrysler is prepared to stand on its own again after nine years, but still will work with its former parent in developing advanced technologies, Chrysler's chief executive said Tuesday.

Tom LaSorda met with reporters at the company's headquarters in Auburn Hills a day after DaimlerChrysler AG announced it was selling 80.1-percent interest in Chrysler to private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management LP.

Chrysler intends to continue to work with Germany-based Daimler and its various divisions on advanced technology projects, including clean-fuel programs, LaSorda said.

Monday's announcement brought to a close the $36 billion (euro26.6 billion) "merger of equals" that in 1998 attempted to create the ultimate global automotive powerhouse.

LaSorda said he was excited at the prospect of building a North American car company with Cerberus.

"We're going to rebound and come back," he said.

"We're on our way as a standalone company."

He said going private will mean running the company "the way we want to run it."

He stopped short of criticizing the Daimler side of Chrysler, but said being independent will allow the company to take a longer-term outlook.

Still, he said, that won't prevent Chrysler from tapping Daimler's technological resources. For instance, the companies will continue to develop a new line of clean-burning diesel engines.

Chrysler also is seeking the guidance of Wolfgang Bernhard, former chief operating officer who recently joined Cerberus as a senior executive. LaSorda, who planned to meet with Bernhard late Tuesday afternoon, said Bernhard can help with product development and the cost side of the business. *AP*

Oil holds above $68

TOKYO—OIL HELD STEADY ON Wednesday ahead of data expected to show increases in US crude and fuel stocks, with Brent prices hovering above $68 after a rally on further supply disruptions in Nigeria.

London Brent crude currently seen as more representative of the global oil market, shed a cent to $68.10 a barrel for June, after jumping almost 2 percent a day earlier. The contract expires on Wednesday.

US crude futures lost 12 cents to $63.05 a barrel.

Royal Dutch Shell has cut output by 170,000 barrels a day since last Thursday, after Nigerian villagers occupied a major oil pipeline hub, the firm said on Tuesday. Militant attacks have now shut off nearly 900,000 bpd, or about 30 percent of supply capacity from the world's eighth largest oil exporter.

"Brent is well sustained and trading higher than US crude due to production problems in Nigeria," said Tetsu Emori, chief strategist at Mitsui Bussan Futures. "US crude is weighed down by expected increases in inventories."

Analysts forecast in a Reuters poll that government data due later on Wednesday will show US gasoline stocks up by 1.1 million barrels last week, increasing for the second week in a row as refiners recovered from maintenance shutdowns.

Crude inventories were expected to have risen by 100,000 barrels, while distillates were seen up 1.4 million barrels.

Falling US gasoline stocks in recent weeks ahead of the summer driving season have helped push average US pump prices to a record $3.10 a gallon.

But gasoline prices might decline as refiners continue to ramp up output, and there are no plans to tap its strategic oil reserve, the US government said.

Support to the oil market still comes from concerns over Iran's atomic work. Tehran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani and European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana will meet on May 31 for a new round of talks on Tehran's nuclear programme, the Irna news agency said on Tuesday.

In neighboring Iraq, where production has been hit by sabotage and neglect, Norwegian oil producer DNO will become the first foreign firm in more than three decades to start pumping Iraqi crude into the global market next month, the Financial Times said on Wednesday.

However, major non-OPEC producer Russia on Tuesday slashed its 2007 oil and gas output forecast by 9.4 percent due to project delays, taking total oil production to about 2.6 million bpd for this year, down from 2.8 million in 2006. *Reuters*

Sony's loss widens in Q1

TOKYO—SONY'S LOSS IN THE JANUARY-March quarter widened from a year ago, partly on massive costs for the new PlayStation 3 game machine, but the company forecast better days ahead on strong sales of flat TVs and other electronics.

Sony Corp. racked up a 67.6-billion yen ($563 million) loss for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, worse than the 66.5-billion yen loss the Japanese electronics and entertainment company reported the same period a year earlier.

Quarterly sales rose nearly 13 percent to 2.01 trillion yen ($16.8 billion) from the previous year, according to the Tokyo-based company behind the Walkman portable music player and "Spider-Man" movies.

Solid demand for Bravia liquid crystal display TVs, Vaio personal computers and Handycam video cameras helped lift sales, Sony said in a statement.

For the fiscal year through March, net profit inched up 2 percent to 126.3 billion yen ($1.1 billion).

But for the current fiscal year, Sony expects profit will more than double to 320 billion yen ($2.7 billion).

That upbeat outlook appeared to reflect a much-promised revival at its electronics unit, which had been battered by competition from cheaper rivals, threatening one of Japan's most prized brands. *AP*

Southeast Asia carves bigger slice of direct investment pie

SINGAPORE—AFTER YEARS OF pouring direct investment into China, foreign firms are discovering that neighboring Southeast Asian countries look attractive too.

The region may well be on the verge of a surge in foreign investment, says Lehman Brothers economist Rob Subbaraman.

"In terms of Southeast Asia's economy, the big missing part of growth since the Asia crisis has been investment," he said.

"This is starting to change. There's no reason that these economies can't be growing at 7 to 8 percent on a sustained basis if they get this investment surge rather than the 5- to 6-percent growth rates we've seen in recent years."

Evidence of a pick-up in foreign direct investment is rising.

Texas Instruments, the world's biggest maker of mobile chips, has just said it will build a $1-billion plant in the Philippines—a move that some industry chiefs say breaks the myth that China is the only place to invest in Asia.

Vietnam's appeal as a FDI destination has shot up since it joined the World Trade Organization in January, while other countries that have fared poorly on the investment front are seeing signs of change.

Malaysia approved a record $5.78 billion in FDI in manufacturing in 2006 and first quarter foreign and domestic investment applications in Indonesia were at a record high.

"There is something of a mood shift in the business community—a more positive attitude than there was six months ago," said Peter Wallace, head of private think-tank Wallace Business Forum in the Philippines.

Obstacles such as corruption remain a worry and economists say seeing the benefits of FDI are a long-term process. They don't doubt that the potential boost to economic growth is huge.

Rising foreign investment in Southeast Asia is said to be driven by several forces: Inflation is generally under control, state finances have improved, corporate taxes are being cut and other measures are being passed to encourage investment.

"The overall investment picture, not just FDI, is improving—increased investment in infrastructure, turnaround in the property cycle, capacity constraints in manufacturing causing more investment in plant and equipment," said Manu Bhaskaran, head of economic research at Centennial Group.

China attracted some $70 billion of FDI last year, dwarfing foreign investment into Asia.

FDI into the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) was estimated at $45 billion in 2006 versus almost $40 billion in 2005.

Still, the latest FDI into ASEAN has surpassed pre-1997/1998 financial crisis inflows. FDI in 1996 was just over $30 billion.

The total is expected to rise further, narrowing the gap with China.

More firms are adopting a 'China plus one' approach—they keep a plant in China but set up a second one in Southeast Asia to control costs, said a Singapore-based Canadian economist.

Lawrence Yeo, CEO at the Asia strategy and investment consultancy AsiaBiz Strategy, said Southeast Asia's high economic growth rates have raised its appeal to investors wanting to expand markets and lower costs.

Governments are stepping up efforts to encourage investment.

Malaysia and Singapore cut corporate tax in their latest budgets. Indonesia in March passed an investment law, an investor-friendly measure that addresses issues such as land rights.

FDI flows into neighboring Malaysia account for roughly 3 percent of GDP and more than 15 percent of GDP in Singapore.

In Singapore, which accounts for around 50 percent of FDI flows into Southeast Asia, FDI growth rates have yet to recover to late 1990s levels of about 14 to 15 percent. *Reuters*

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that the following are officers and directors of **American Stripes, Inc.** with office address at **Units 303-304, 3rd floor, AVECSS BLDG. No. 90 Kamias Rd., K-J St., East Kamias, Quezon City.** Notice is further given to the public that American Stripes, Inc. is applying for the License with Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

MICHAEL A. ARAGON – President
FIDEL G. POSADAS – Corporate Secretary
LOWELL SORIANO – Treasurer
GEORGE GADDI – Director
TOMAS G. RENTOY – Director
CESAR A. CARAON – Director
FEBE Z. DIMAPILIS – Director
EDUARDO R. APACIBLE – Director

(PDI – May 17, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and
Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD

IN RE : PETITION FOR ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY (CPCN) TO OPERATE DOMESTIC NON-SCHEDULED AIR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AIR TAXI SERVICES)

CAB Case No. EP-29359-LED0407/005

BEELINE HELICOPTERS, INC.
Petitioner.
x- x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that **BEELINE HELICOPTERS, INC.** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board a petition for issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to operate non-scheduled domestic air transportation services (Air Taxi Services). The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on **29 May 2007 at 2:00 P.M.** in the CAB Conference Room of the Civil Aeronautics Board, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the petitioner shall present evidence

Under Section 16 of R.A. 776, the applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation and have copies hereof and the application be sent to all Philippine carriers, either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the petitioner, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this petition on its merit.

Let a copy of this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

02 May 2007
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) MA. ELBEN SL. MORO
Hearing Officer

Copy furnished:

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(PDI – May 10 & 17, 2007)

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OBITUARIES

RODOLFO "Jody" A. EVANGELISTA

peacefully joined our Lord and his parents on May 16, 2007 at the age of 58.

His family, **Gigie**, children **Kaboobee** & **Grant**, **Mark**, **Michael** & **Marilou**, brothers and sisters-in-law, **Ronnie** & **Thelma**, **Bobby** & **Felicia** and sister **Rowie**, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends join in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church, Philamlife Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, May 19, 2007 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

R.I.P.

Excmo. Sr. Don Cesar de Zulueta y Alonso de Villapadierna

Falleció en Madrid
el 10 de Mayo de 2007
D.E.P.

su hija, Doña Isabel de Zulueta y Munro, hijo político Don José Gil de Biedma y Vega de Seoane, nietos, bisnietos, amigos, y demás familia ruegan una oración por su alma.

Se oficiará una Misa en su memoria y eterno descanso el martes, 22 de Mayo de 2007 a las 10:00 am en el Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed. For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

Message of Thanks

AUREA QUIJANO GERONIMO

July 19, 1935 – April 9, 2007

On behalf of the family of our late **Tita Auring**, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all those who have offered their prayers, flowers and support in this time of our grief.

In commemoration of her 40 days, Mass Intentions have been scheduled at the following churches:

May 18	**St. Rita Parish**, Philamlife Homes, West Avenue, QC – 6:30 am **Sto. Domingo Church**, Quezon Blvd., QC – 8:00 am and 12:15 pm **Tarlac Cathedral**, F. Tanedo St., Tarlac City – 7:00 am
May 19	**Sta. Domingo Church**, Quezon Blvd., QC – 12:15 pm

"I have kept the good fight, I have run the race, I have kept the faith"
2 Timothy 4:7

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

ATTY. VICTORIANO VILLARAMA CRUZ

who passed away on May 9, 2007

wish to express our deepest gratitude to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, donations and messages of sympathy, attended the wake and joined the family in the interment rites, and in countless other ways comforted us in our moment of bereavement.

HUI SUK "JOSEPH" CHUNG

"Alon" to fellow Rotarians

peacefully joined our Lord on May 14, 2007.

His bereaved wife **LYNNA**, son **JAE WOO**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Felicidad Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City, after the 7:00 A.M. Mass.

Death Notices

AMANDA (Manda) BUELVA BELLEZA

(of Balaton, Lagonoy and Goa, Camarines Sur)

peacefully joined our Lord on May 14, 2007 at the age of 75.

Her remains lie in state at her residence in Bagumbayan Pequeno St., Goa, Camarines Sur.

Interment will be tomorrow, May 18, 2007, at Goa Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 PM Mass at Goa Catholic Church.

ATTY. AUGUSTO P. PACIS, SR.

of Cabugao, Ilocos Sur

peacefully joined our Lord on May 13, 2007 at the age of 90.

His body lies in state at the Cebu Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, Cebu City. Interment will take place at Cebu Memorial Park at 4:00 PM today, May 17, 2007, after the funeral mass at 3:00 PM in Rolling Hills, Emmanuel 2 Chapel.

MELITONA ZAGALA DESAGUN

March 10, 1930 – May 2, 2007

Her loving children, **Marilou** and **Edgar**, son-in-law **Joey Rettner**, daughter-in-law **Gemma Bacle Desagun**, grandson **Joseph Edgar B. Desagun**, brother **Domingo P. Zagala** and other relatives and friends deeply mourn her passing and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will arrive tomorrow, May 18 and will lie in state at 79 Claro M. Recto St., Talisay, Batangas.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 19 after the 10:00 am Mass at the San Guillermo Parish, Talisay, Batangas.

"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me." (Psalm 116:7)

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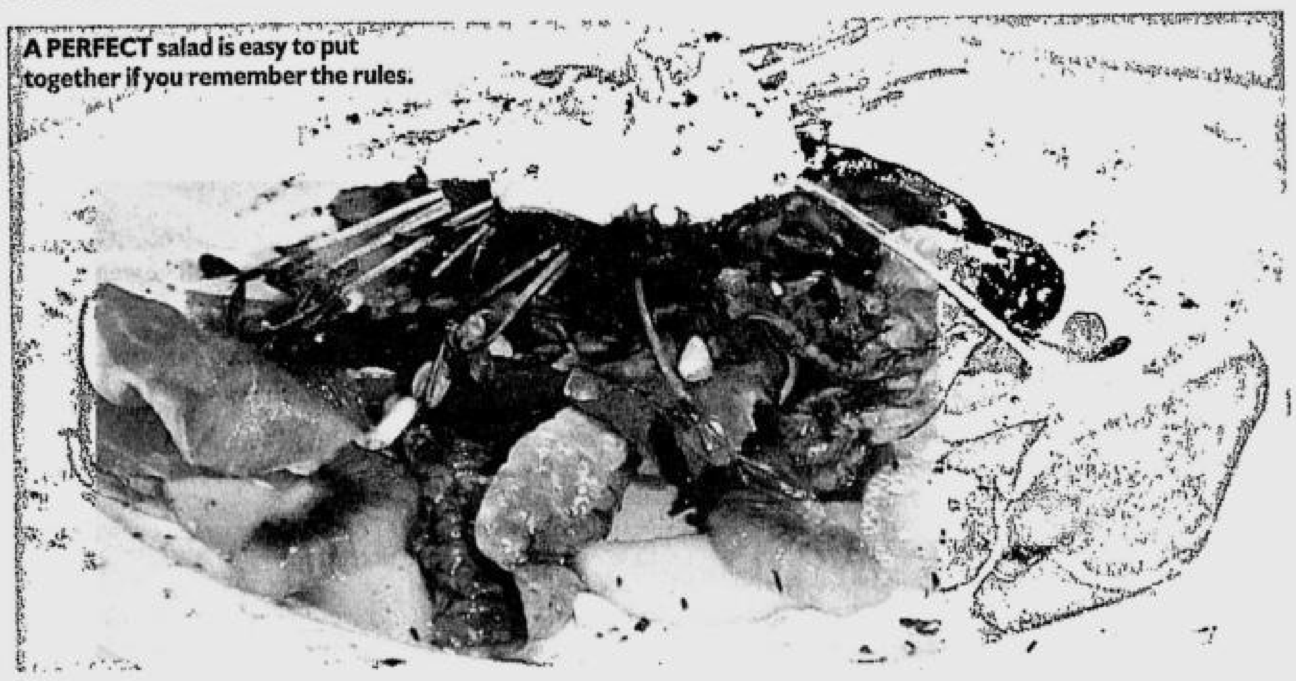


A PERFECT salad is easy to put together if you remember the rules.

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

Mixing, tossing and dressing—rules for a perfect salad

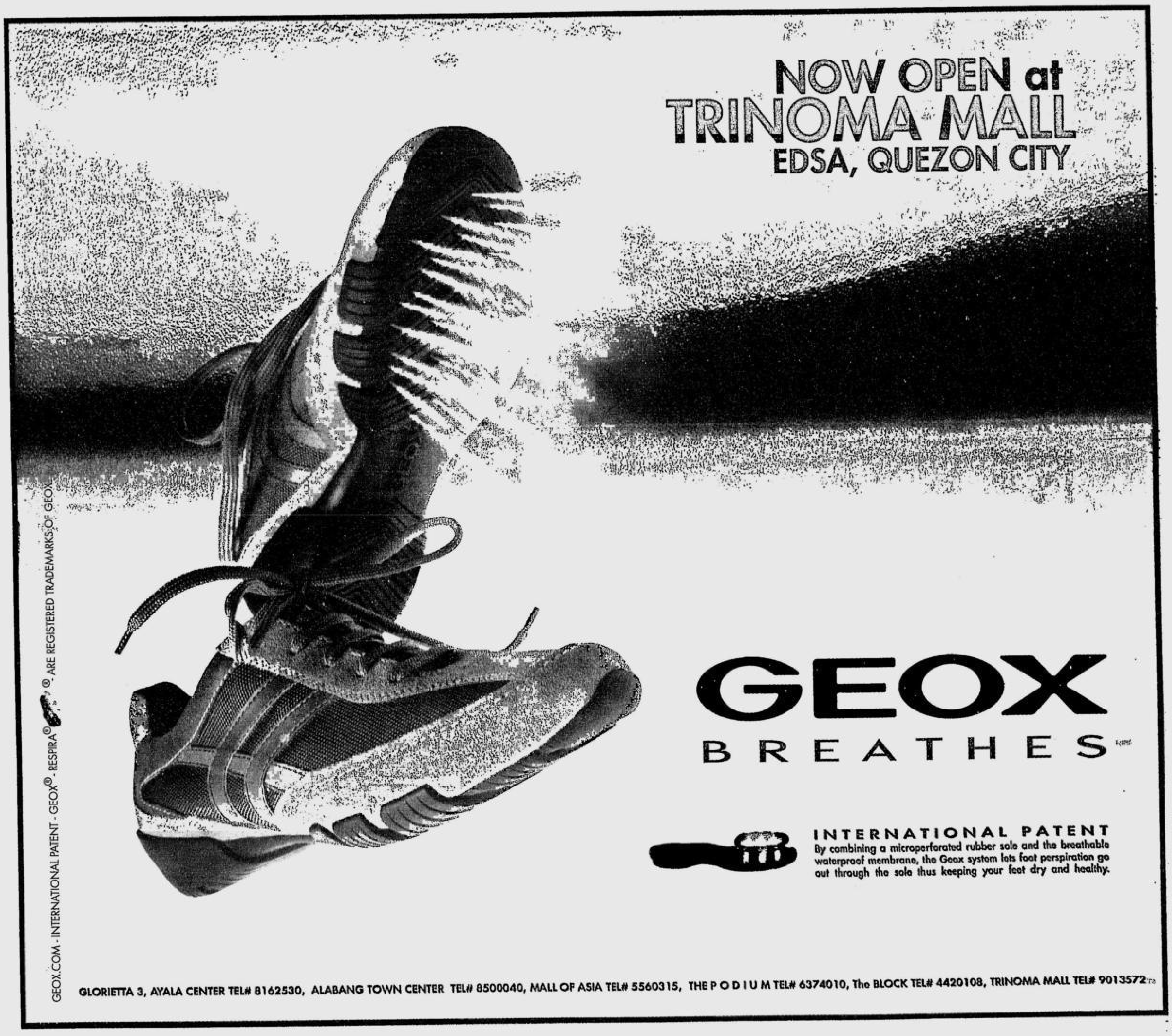
I REMEMBER WHEN, DESPITE coming down from Baguio after our Holy Week sojourns *kalong-kalong ang gulay*, salad meant only a plate of pitiful brown-tipped leaves of iceberg lettuce topped with discs of tomatoes and cucumbers tossed in the most quintessential of dressings, the Thousand Island.

How things have changed! Today eating a salad is actually an exciting and, sometimes, hoity-toity affair.

Thank God the days when eating a plate of greens made you feel like a goat are way over! Even in the tropics, we can now enjoy a crisp plate of mixed greens, whether grown locally or imported from overseas.

To me, a well-made salad is a plate of sun-

MIXING/ C2



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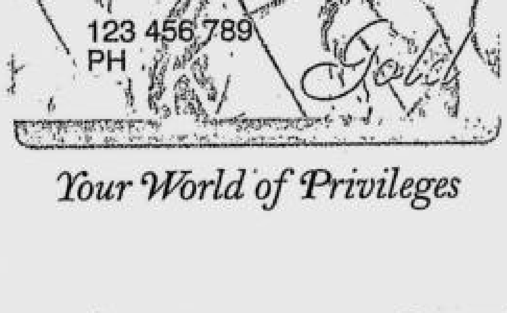

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SERVE LOVE AT MEALTIME

Be it lunch or dinner, mealtimes are the best time to bond with the family. There's nothing like sharing hot food, an ice-cold Coke and good conversation to strengthen family relationships. So make mealtimes an occasion to serve some family love. Here are some helpful tips to turn mealtime into family time:

• PRIORITIZE MEALTIMES TOGETHER.
Emphasize the importance of mealtime and encourage each other to eat together.

• SERVE THE MEAL WITH A SMILE.
It's not "what" you serve, it's "how" you serve it. A meal served with love and tenderness will outshine any gourmet dish.

• LISTEN TO WHAT EVERYONE HAS TO SAY.
Give time for everyone to talk – children and adults. Nobody should be excluded.

• COOK IT QUICK, EAT IT SLOW.
Save elaborate menus for when you have time to spare. The important thing is taking the time to enjoy a meal together.

• SWITCH OFF THE TV AND SWITCH ON TO ONE ANOTHER.
It's time family members starred in their own lives. Start relating to each other, rather than a character on the TV.

Whether you're making a simple lunch or a big family feast, remember to dish up that affection. Mealtimes shouldn't just nourish the body but the heart, mind and soul as well. The family that is nourished physically and emotionally becomes happier and grows closer with one another. As the saying goes, the family that eats together, stays together.

Bonding sa Buhay, Coke Buksan Mo'

Coca-Cola

THE CONSUMER

Greening the fashionista

By Linda B. Bolido

AT THE AVERAGE PRICE of US$900 or almost P45,000, the bag is more than many Filipinos earn in a year.

But, hey, if that is what it takes to make the stylish and fashion-conscious more environment-friendly—and if they have the money for it—then, by all means, let them tote shopping bags by Hermes, Stella McCartney and Consuelo Castiglioni of Marni.

An Associated Press story released by the Canadian Press says the three are among the world's top designers now offering reusable shopping bags.

Chic and pricey, the bags are a fashionable alternative to paper or plastic. The user gives a nod to environment protection without sacrificing style.

AP says Hermes' Silky Pop bag that goes on sale in the United States soon will cost US$960. "Made of hand-wrought silk, it collapses into a wallet-size pouch of calfskin," the news agency reports.

Castiglioni offers a foldable nylon bag for US$843 while McCartney, daughter of Sir Paul of Beatles' fame, has an organic canvas for "only" US$495.

AP reports, "Reusable shopping bags—until now mostly confined to farmers' markets and health food co-ops—have increased in popularity as cities consider banning the use of certain plastic bags and encourage shoppers to do more for the environment."

San Francisco, the California bay city that has often pioneered in alternative lifestyles, reportedly became the first major American city to ban the use of non-biodegradable plastic grocery bags.

Now other United States cities are considering similar proposals.

Greening students

Meanwhile, environmental groups Add Up! Volunteers and EcoWaste Coalition have come up with a list of tips for parents and students on how to reduce trash and save money for back-to-school needs.

The tips, the groups hope, will help families with limited budgets cope with the expenses of a new school year while minimizing waste and pollution.

The groups said spending associated with school opening has environmental costs rarely considered by parents and the over 22 million students who will return to class.

The groups point out that the manufacture of many of the things they will buy use fossil fuel energy like coal, oil, gas and petrol. These are not renewable resources and their use also contribute to climate change.

"By following the 'green tips,' consumers delay or eliminate the need to extract more raw materials and manufacture new products and consequently reduce the demand for fossil fuels and minimize the release of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide into the atmosphere," the environmental groups said.

Among the groups' suggestions:

Instead of buying, see if you can borrow from schoolmates and friends the textbooks and reference materials you need.

Check second-hand bookstores before buying a new book.

Reuse magazine covers, gift wrappers or grocery bags to cover books and notebooks.

Take good care of your books so you can pass them on to friends and relatives.

Donate old books to school or community libraries.

Sort through your materials and see what school materials you already have or what can be reused or recycled before going shopping.

Reuse scrap paper as lecture or research notes.

When shopping for new school supplies, look for products that are made from recycled materials to minimize waste and save money. Choose nontoxic products for your own health and safety.

Patronize locally produced school supplies. You do not only support the local industry, but also lessen the fossil fuel energy used to transport things.

Select durable school supplies that can be reused, recycled, repaired or refilled. This will help reduce the amount of discards.

Use a reusable carry bag when you shop.

Have your old uniform altered by a dressmaker and your shoes repaired by a shoemaker instead of buying new things.

Bring a reusable water jug so there is no need to buy bottled water and sugar-filled beverages and juices.

Bring native *kakanin* and healthy food for snacks in reusable containers and avoid junk food in plastic wrappers. Stay away from Styrofoam and other throw-away plastic disposables.

Replace disposable paper napkin with reusable rag or towelette.

Car pool or use public transport or school bus. Try biking or walking to school to save fuel, minimize air pollution and reduce traffic congestion.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

Weeds, ferns . . .

From page C4

that one must be sure no pesticides or insecticides have been used on them.

Other edible plants

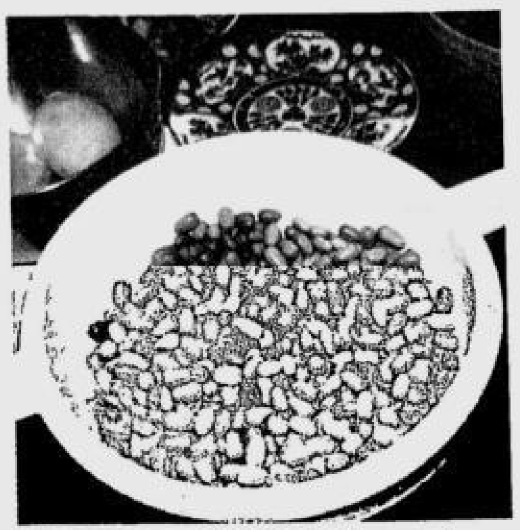
Apart from weeds, the book lists other plants that can be used for salads. There are those whose leaves need to be blanched such as the *yampong* and the *alibangbang*. *Yampong* or morning glory belongs to the *kamote* family. *Alibangbang* or orchid tree (Bauhina sp.) is also used for souring *sinigang*.

Other plants require that only young leaves are used for salads. Ferns are among those. There is the more familiar *paco* or vegetable fern, the *pakong alupihan* or centipede fern and the *pakong kalabaw* or elephant fern.

Perhaps the most colorful salad I've ever encountered is the one involving *alagao* leaves. Patterned after a Thai concoction, the velvety leaves are used to wrap fried and fresh shallots, *kamias*, chili and nuts, among others. Those can be substituted for salad ingredients like chopped tomatoes, mangoes, salted eggs and whatever other flavors are required.

Not everyone knows that the *alagao* (Premma odorata) can be eaten. The monks at the Benedictine Monastery in Malaybalay were grateful to learn that the leaves of their *alagao* tree could be used for food.

Alagao is also used to wrap fish for charcoal broiling, imparting its anise-like aroma and flavor. It is also used to decorate *carrozas* during religious processions. Afterward, the leaves are considered medicinal and sort of miraculous.


WILD ***pipino*****, small cucumber-like weeds**

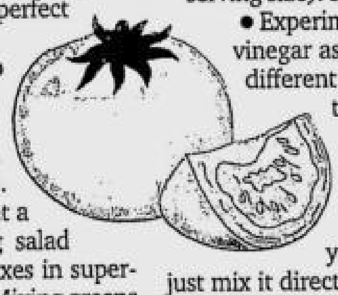
I hope with this column you would have more choices for your salad than our local greens of *alugbati*, *kamote* tops and *kangkong*. And next time, watch out for those weeds and don't throw them away.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

Mixing, tossing and dressing . . .

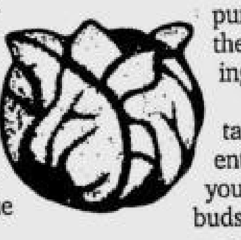
From page C1

shine, a myriad of colors and textures ready to be captured on canvas, and a symphony of flavors waiting to be had in one perfect bite!



A perfect salad is quite easy to put together if you remember the rules...

- Let your imagination run wild with your choice of greens. Use several varieties at a time. Get a bag of mesclun (assorted young salad leaves). There are Salad Time mixes in supermarkets and they are wonderful! Mixing greens will add depth to your salad as some leaves are peppery like the arugula while others are bitter (radicchio, endive, chicory). Apart from flavor, mixing greens gives you texture and color.
- Wash your greens carefully. Handling your greens is important since you are eating them raw. Wash them thoroughly and dry them, preferably in a salad spinner. Wet greens adulterate the dressing.



- Serving portions—two cups of greens per person.
- All salad components should be prepared in bite-size pieces.
- Adding other vegetables and fruits, raw, steamed then cooled, sauteed (i.e. mushrooms) or roasted, makes your salad more exciting.
- For bursts of flavor, add cheeses, eggs, olives, nuts, cured meats such as bacon and ham. The possibilities are endless.
- Main course salads are made by adding a piece of grilled chicken, steak or fish, even cooked seafood such as prawns and scallops.
- Not all salads need to be green-based. Use pasta, potatoes, bread, corn, broccoli, cauliflower, etc. Remember that if you use a base other than greens, toss the dressing before the ingredient cools down for better absorption of flavors. If using pasta, cook al dente, rinse in water and coat in oil to avoid sticking.

Dressing the salad

- Salads should never be over-dressed. The dressing should just coat and not soak. Dress and toss just before serving.
- I would use about one tablespoon of dressing to two cups of greens, of course depending on the type of dressing. I would use a bit less for a strong vinaigrette and a bit more for a creamy dressing.
- The best green salads are those that are crisp and slightly chilled. Keep your greens chilled in zip-lock bags (they keep better; I store mine this way) until ready to use. If possible, chill your serving dishes (plates or bowls) before putting your greens on it.

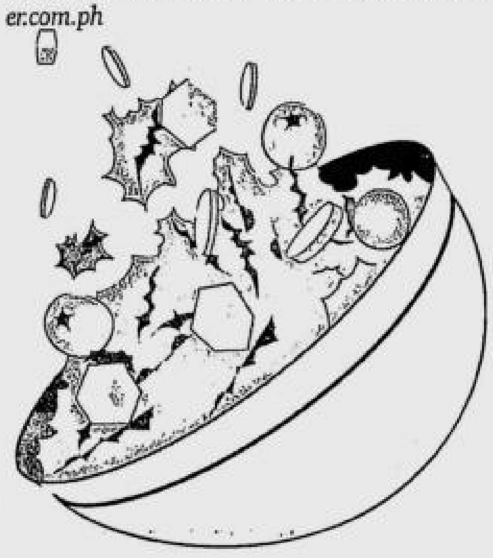
One of the most hygienic ways to toss your salad is to pour your dressing into the zip-lock bag of greens and shake. Transfer to a serving dish. *Voila!* Less *kalat*!

- Vinaigrette ratio: three parts oil to one part vinegar (1 tsp vinegar and 1 tbsp oil per serving size). Season with salt and pepper.
- Experiment on the types of oil and vinegar as well. Different types produce different flavors. Easy on the vinegar though. Some are too strong and can ruin the "delicate flavor" that you wish for your salad.
- If you plan not to mix your vinaigrette in a bowl and just mix it directly on to the greens, remember to put the vinegar before the oil. Otherwise, the vinegar will not penetrate the leaves.
- Try adding herbs and spices to your vinaigrette, too. Other ingredients you can add are garlic, shallots, ginger, grated or minced onions. In place of vinegar try fresh fruit juice or concentrates. Soy sauce, fruit jams, fruit purees, a pinch of sugar, honey, mustard, all these in minute quantities make your dressings far more interesting.

The key to perfect dressing is your own taste buds. Put small portions of the ingredients at a time and keep tasting. You will know you have a good dressing when your taste buds are happy.

- One of the easiest ways to make a dressing is to put the ingredients into an empty jar and shake vigorously.
- For emulsified dressings, I still like working with a blender. With the motor running, combine all your ingredients and add your oil last in a fine stream. Or use a whisk. In the absence of a gadget, combine everything in a jar and put one ice cube. Cover and shake jar vigorously until the mixture thickens or emulsifies. Immediately remove the ice cube.
- For low-calorie creamy dressings, substitute yogurt for sour cream.
- For dressings with raw yolk base: To avoid salmonella, bring water to a boil. When briskly boiling, put egg and cook for one minute. Cool and use the yolks for your dressing.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph



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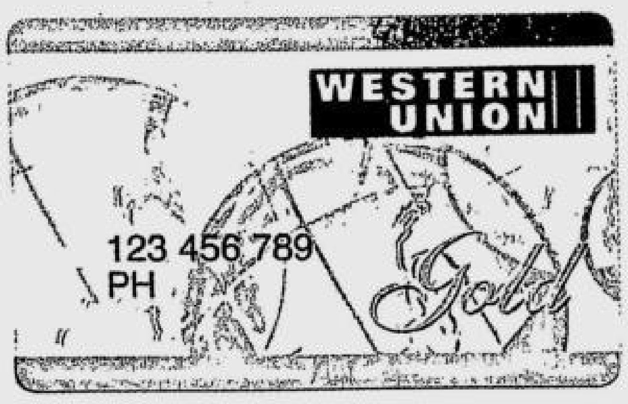

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At a time of kings and queens, step into the shoes inspired by the fashion icon Queen Marie Antoinette. Bring back a royal style set in the 21st Century. This set epitomizes glamour, class and regal presence tailored to French fashion. The Marie Antoinette collection from Dumond is a line that outsmarts the usual "rococo" style. It brings an aura of wealth as aired by such noble materials, as satin and velvet. The European knights′ royalty also has its space in the riding boots.

A modern "Breakfast at Tiffany's"-styled fashion, reinvented with thick heels and platforms. The diva Audrey Hepburn's stunning beauty and magnificent charms reminiscent of the 50s personified in square lasts, peep-toe shoes, pointed-toes and a lot of patent leather.

The 60s, tenet of model Twiggy reigned was one absolute with her androgynous style. You can never go wrong with this minimalist touch on the geometric shapes and the simply daunting presence of ballerinas.

Since we are on the topic of iconic personalities, Let's jump straight to the 80s and relive the era of dominated by Madonna. Colors and print profusions distinctly of that decade, made with such materials as grogram and elastics.

The 90's exploded with teen spirit as propelled by one phenomenal personality. This was the time of the grunge movement sweeping across USA, and the rest of the world. Far from just a seasonal fad, the reflection of this age continues on to this day. It is another highlight style available in the Dumond's 2007 winter collection. A strongly influenced style present in the wide boots and leather garments with a worn-out aspect, earthy hues, added with shades gray and black translating a rebellious and free spirited lifestyle.

Dumond invites you to discover its 2007 winter collection through a selection of styles that best capture the transcending eras that molded our society. Fall in love with the ingenious mixture of materials and colors in an ageless blend that screams out I'm in style.

There are different styles fitting for different people and as varied as the personalities that come along with them; each one unique and important in their own way. So why not try out a pair of shoes that will fit you, at a Dumond Boutique nearest you.

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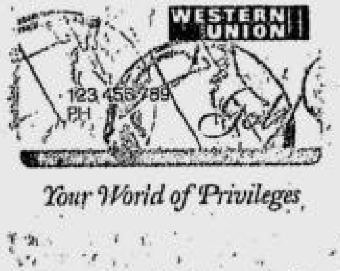

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SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

June 4(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m (classroom A) **BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison** *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. **P1,500**

June 4(Monday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison** * Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center & Butterscotch Bars. **P1,500**

June 4(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **MEAT PROCESSING I by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**, from Stars & Bizu, let Chef Vicki share with you her wealth of knowledge and experience of patisseries and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operations.Open a rewarding all day dining (tapsilog) or home based business. Apply the new concepts, principles and techniques of making a longanisa, chorizo, tocino, corned beef, tapa, luncheon meat, embotido from scratch. The preparation of ice tea, atchara and flavored rice, and lunch is included. **Reservation Is Required! P2,800**

June 5(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **THAI COOKING I by: Chef Aileen Anastacio**, owner of Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon, Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy" Crispy Catfish Salad with Mango, Tom Yum Goong, Pan-Fried Fillet of Fish with Basil and Chili Garlic Sauce, Chicken Pandan with Sesame Sauce, Paad Thai and Water Chestnut with Sweet Coconut Milk**Demonstration with student participation. P1,700**

June 5(Tuesday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A)**THAI COOKING II by: Chef Aileen Anastacio** * Clear Soup with minced pork, Prawn and Pomelo Salad, Red Curry with Roasted Duck and Lychees, Thai Fried Spring Rolls, Pineapple Fried Rice with Prawns and Banana Fritters in Coconut Batter. **Demonstration with student participation. P1,700**

June 5(Tuesday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom B) **PAELLA CLASS by: Chef Ed Quimson,** is a seasoned master chef of Spanish origin, creator of Chef Ed's Restaurant at Salcedo Village, Makati City and his latest restaurant FILOS at The Fort, Makati City. He has also lent his expertise to such restaurants as La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielsen Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Phil. Stock Exchange & the Subic Yacht Club" Paella Negra, Paella a la Montana, Paella Catalan, Paella Sevillana (Vegetarian) and Paella Con Setas Y Mejillones. **P1,800**

June 6(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.(classroom A) **EASY FAST-FOOD RECIPE I by: Chef Katherine Sion**, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine. * Sweet and Sour Pork, Fried Crispy Chicken, Pinsec Frito, Beef Pares, Beef Curry, Kangkong with Bagoong. **P2,000**

June 6(Wednesday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A)**DIMSUM I by: Chef Katherine Sion** * Congee, Siomai, Dumpling, Chicken Feet, Fried Shrimp Ball and Buchi. **P1,700**

June 7(Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **THE ARTFUL CUPCAKE by: Chef Jacqueline Ang-Po**, Pastry Chef of Fleur de Lys Patisserie, dean's list graduate, California Culinary Academy.Flavorful cupcakes with colorful designs. Learn how to bake, decorate and mix and match pretty cupcakes! Easy to make and easy to sell. **Recipes:** Classic yellow cupcake with buttercream (different colors, designs and flavors), Chocolate cupcake with 7 minute frosting, Triple Chocolate Cupcake, White Chocolate Mocha, Lemon Meringue, Strawberries and Chocolate. **Bonus Recipe:** Sugar Free Cupcakes! **P1,500**

June 7(Thursday)9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.(classroom B) **TECHNIQUES OF FINE COOKING I (Featuring Chicken) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva. Hands-on preparation and cooking of chicken.** Each student shall be assigned whole chicken to butcher and debone. Learn how to grill, roast, stew, fry, sauté, steam and make sauces. **Recipes include:** Chicken Gallantina, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Sate, Classic Roasted Herb Chicken, Chicken Nuggets, Chicken Caesar Salad, Chicken Fricasse and Chicken Teriyaki. **Reservation Is Requested! P2,750**

June 8(Friday)9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.(classroom A) **WAFFLES, CREPES AND PUFFS by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po** * Belgian & American Style Waffles and its variation – Blueberry, Chocolate Chip, Apple Cinnamon, plus different toppings & sauces for the waffles. **Puffs** - Caramel Cream Puffs, Chocolate Eclairs and Churros! **Crepes** - Crepe Suzette, Crepe Normandie, Special Mango Crepe Samurai. **Demonstration with student participation. P1,800**

June 8(Friday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **JAPANESE COOKING 4 by: Chef Koichi Kondo** * Curry Rice, Curry Udon, Curry Chahan, Chawan Mushi, Tori Karaage, Gyu Maki Fry, Agedashi Tofu, Aspara Gyu Maki, Mango Gyu Maki, Kani Fry and Kani Tempura. **P1,700**

June 9(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS! FATHER & SON by: Carmela Madrid**, is a freelance Food Stylist catering to consumer and institutional companies. She was trained at The Culinary Institute of America, California Culinary Academy, and Heny Sison Culinary School and also worked for the San Miguel Culinary Center as a Products Application Specialist Treat your Dad this Father's Day and show him how mush you care by spending some time together in the kitchen! This class is the perfect gift for the Dad who likes to cook and loves to eat. You and dad will learn how to make oh so yummy Grilled Ribs, Finger lickin Buffalo Wings, original Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, Chips w/ Mango Salsa, Buttery Garlic Grilled Corn, and Molten Lava Cake ala Mode for dessert. **Demonstration and hands-on. Please bring your apron. P1,950**

June 9(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo**, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants *Learn all-time favorites Japanese dishes applicable to home & professional cooking such as: Sushi, Sashimi, Sukiyaki, Miso Soup, Tempura, Teriyaki, Udon Noodles in Clay Pot, Chicken Teriyaki & Japanese Fried Rice. **P2,500**

June 11(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **SECRETS NO MORE! by: Heny Sison** *Decadent Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake. **P3,000**

June 11(Monday)9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS! EASY CHINOY PAMBAHAY 4 by: Chef Katherine Sion** *Dragon Egg Roll Soup, Pot Roast Chicken, Spicy Pork Spareribs, Crabmeat w/ Asparagus, Beef w/ Bell Pepper Rice Noodles and Lemon Tart. **Inclusive of lunch also bring your own personal apron. Reservation is requested! P1,650**

June 11(Monday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom B) **EASY PINOY PAMBAHAY II by: Chef Katherine Sion** * Pancit Molo Soup, Adobong Baboy at Manok, Sizzling Bangus Belly w/ Oriental Sauce, Fried Shrimp w/Butter Sauce and Chopsuey Guisado and Mango Supreme. **Reservation Is requested! P1,650**

June 13(Wednesday)9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.(classroom A) **ALL ABOUT FRENCH MACAROONS PART II by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** *Learn step-by-step preparation. A most sought after give away for Valentines and Weddings. **Flavors include:** Tiramisu Macaroons, Green Tea, Salted Caramel, Hot Cinnamon and Black Forest. **Reservation Is requested! P1,850**

June 13(Wednesday)1:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS! FOOD CART VII – OPEN A PASALUBONG CART by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** * Buko Pie, Special Cassava Cake, Sesame and Peanut Brittle, Pili and Chocolate nougat and Fudge Brownie. **Reservation Is requested! P1,650**

June 14(Thursday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **PASTA GALORE by: Chef Aileen Anastacio** *Learn all-time favorites pasta dishes. **Recipes:** Pasta Puttanesca, Pasta Carbonara, Spaghetti with Meatballs Seafood Pasta with Tomato Cream and Vongole. **P1,800**

June 14(Thursday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) **MODERN ITALIAN PASTAS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio** * Spaghetti Al Nero w/ Squid Ink Sauce, Pasta Alla Norma w/ Tomatoes, Eggplant Basil and Mozzarella, Linguini Al Gorgonzola, Pasta Alla Papalina w/ Ham, Peas and Egg Sauce, Spaghettini Con Bagnabrusca with Lemon Anchovy Sauce and Spaghetti Al Tonno w/ Tuna in Tomato Cream Sauce. **P1,800**

June 16(Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **HEALTHY GOURMET - SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 1 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje**, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet) * This class is suitable for all people who want to be able to cook healthy dishes, lose weight considerably and people with health concerns such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other dietary restrictions. The class will guide you through the principles of healthy nutrition, South Beach Diet phase 1 "Swiss Pinoy Style", which uses locally available ingredients. **Complete menu plan and recipes for 14 days of Phase 1. P1,650 plus P700 recipe booklet for Phase 1**

June 16(Saturday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) **HEALTHY GOURMET – SOUTH BEACH DIET COMBO CLASS PHASE 2 and 3 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** * This class is suitable for all people who want to learn how to cook healthy dishes, deepen their knowledge of nutrition and weight control, as well as people with health concerns, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and other dietary restrictions. This class teaches wholesome recipes which reintroduce carbohydrates with complete recipe booklets for phase 2 and 3 of the South Beach Diet. **P1,650plus P700 per recipe booklet**

June 18(Monday)9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS! EASY FAST-FOOD RECIPES 2 by: Chef Katherine Sion** *Fried Stuffed Shrimp, Crispy Pata, Sizzling Lilid w/ Spicy Sauce, Maki Mi, Broccoli w/ Oyster Sauce, Steamed Chicken Rice. **P2,000**

June 18(Monday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **DIMSUM II by: Chef Katherine Sion** * Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharksfin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami and Egg Tart. **P1,700**

June 18(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **ITALIAN PIZZA WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison.** Italian Pizza Dough, Tomato Sauce Base, White Sauce Base. **Recipes:** Pizza Margherita, Pizza alle Aconghe, Pizza al Tonno, Pizza Verde, Pizza Biana, Pizza Al Quattro Formaggi **Demonstration w/ student participation. P1,700**

June 19(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS! HOME MADE ICE CREAM AND DESSERTS by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** * Learn how to make home made ice creams and desserts* Vanilla Ice Cream, Coconut Ice Cream, Chocolate Double Mint Ice Cream, Banana and Cashew Nuts Ice Cream, Strawberry and Mango Sherbet, Ice Cream with Hot Cherry Sauce, Iced Cappuccino Cups, Mango Crepe with Chocolate Ricotta Ice Cream and Strawberry Sauce. **P1,700**

June 19(Tuesday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! HEALTHY GOURMET FOOD FOR MENO-ANDROPAUSE AND BEYOND Healthy food that makes you feel good, and that can help protect you from breast, womb and prostate cancer – a class to keep you healthy - men and women alike:** Learn about meno- and andropause, their symptoms, treatments and how food can influence your wellbeing during this period of transition, and that even men have oestrogen .. This class teaches you how to eat before and during the meno- and andropause and why these recipes are healthy for the whole family. This class includes a menu planning guide and demonstrates the following recipes: Egg Florentine, Fatoush-Syrian Bread Salad, Carrot and Coriander soup, Pasta with broccoli and anchovies, Roast nut-coated Cod with Lemon Vinaigrette, Banana cream pieAdditional information and recipe booklet gives you valuable information and is packed with delicious recipes for breakfast, snacks, lunch, dinners and desserts **Also available our recipe booklet w/ additional recipes and valuable information on menopause** (P350.00). **P1,600**

June 19(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **CHARCUTERIE BASICS (SAUSAGE WORKSHOP) by: Chef Vivian Syyap**, Private Chef/Caterer, Associates in Occupational Studies, Culinary Arts, with honors. The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York. * Learn the art of curing, brining, and basic sausage-making. **Featuring:** Fresh Corned Beef, Pastrami, Breakfast Sausage, German Bratwurst, Frankfurter, Smoked Sweet Italian Sausage **Please reserve 3 days before. P3,500**

June 20(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca**, floral designer *Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic forms, arrangements and flowers for weddings. **Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P2,500**

June 20(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **SWEET BUT SUGAR FREE CAKES II by: Chef Jacqueline Ang-Po,** Pastry Chef of Fleur de Lys Patisserie, dean's list graduate, California Culinary AcademyAnother round of great cakes and pastries minus the sugar. * Cappuccino Tiramisu, Oatmeal Chip Cookie, Almond Sansrival, Vanilla Pannacotta, Chocolate Mousse Cake, Fudge Macadamia Brownies. **P1,800**

June 21(Thursday)9:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.(classroom A) **MY FAVORITE CAKES by: Heny Sison** *Caramel Cake, Banana Nut Cake, Pandan – Macapuno Cake, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Peach Walnut Torte and Brazo de Mercedes. **P1,500**

June 21(Thursday)2:00 -5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **A TASTE OF LIFE RECIPES: PART 1 (Most Requested!) by: Heny Sison** * Barquillos, Pulvoron, Pastillas de Leche, Pastillas de Ube and Special Buko Pie. **P1,500**

June 21(Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **DIMSUM 6 by: Chef Katherine Sion** *Cuapao Wrapper, Cuapao Filling, Salted Vegetables, Crispy Egg Tart, Fried Shrimp with Taro & Oyster Cake. **P1,950**

June 22(Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **KOREAN COOKING I by: Chef Cecile Park**, owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila *Beef Bulgogi (Tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi, Pork Bulgogi, Chap Chae, Mi Yuk Guk (Soups: Seaweeds, Beef or Tahong), Bibimbap & Kalbi Jim. **P2,500**

June 22(Friday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom B) **JAPANESE RICE TOPPINGS by: Chef Koichi Kondo. Recipes:** Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl), Katsudon (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Tori Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki). **P1,700**

June 22(Friday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom B) **SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo** *Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Teka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi) and California Maki. **P1,700**

June 23(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS! ALL ABOUT HAM by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** *Learn how to cure, package, cook and market* Chinese Style Ham, Pear Shape Ham, Sweet Ham, Chicken Ham and My Moms Special Christmas Ham. **P2,850**

June 25(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(class/pom A) **FLATBREAD/ DIPS & SPREAD WORKSHOP by: Heny SisonFlatbreads:** Tender Focaccia, Carta di Musica (Sardinian parchment bread), Lavosh, Pita Bread, Thin Cornmeal Tortilla **Dips & Spreads:** Chicken Liver Pâté, Smoked Salmon Tapenade, Pesto, Zahtar & Hot Artichoke Dip. **P2,000**

June 25(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! FOOD CART VIII (Featuring Chocolate Cake Donuts) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva.** *Discover the ins and out of donut production start ups, selling and secret ingredients behind the #1 donut chains. Learn how to make the Perfect Glazed, Bavarian, Dulce de Leche, Cheezy, Ube, Chocolate Lady Finger and Rainbow Donut. **P2,650**

June 26(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **SPECIAL TABLE AND HOME DECOR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca** Table Centerpieces w/ actual demonstration and table setting presentation. **Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P3,000**

June 26(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS! COMMERCIAL BREAD BAKING (Featuring Saleable Breads with Fillings) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** * Whole Wheat Corned Beef Pandesal, Toasted Asado Pao, Teriyaki Buns, Pizza Bread, Tuna Egg Pandesal and Hotdog filled Buns and How to cure and cook Corned Beef. **P2,700**

June 27(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **COFFEE CLASS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio** * If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Make fun toppings & garnishes & master the art of coffee making. **Recipes:** Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato & Espresso Con Panna, Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road and more! **P3,000**

June 28-29(Thu.-Fri.)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison** *Learn the basics of cake decorating: icing, color, star, shell, dots, outline and scallop borders; the rose, figure piping: clowns & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. **Full participation. P4,000**

June 28(Thursday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom B) **MEXICAN FAVORITES by: Carmela Madrid** Enjoy the flavor of Mexico right in your own home. With there delicious and easy to make recipes: Flour Tortilla, Red Mexican Salsa, mango Salsa, Chicken Enchiladas, Beef Fajitas, Cheese and Corn Flautas and Beef Tacos. **Free Recipes:** Guacamole, Frijoles Refritos (refried beans), Traditional Mexican Red Rice, Chile Con Queso. **Demonstration with student participation. P1,500**

June 30(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **BACKYARD GRILLING & BARBECUE WORKSHOP PART 2 by: Chef Sam De Leoz**, Food Consultant, Stylist, Photographer, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Culinary Competition Events Consultant specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery; International & Asian Cuisine.(Limited to 18 students only) The Chefs shares with you in this full participation workshop a few of his signature Grilling and Barbecue all time favorites. **Recipes:** Charbroiled SAM'S Baby Back Ribs w/ Barbecue Sauce and Grilled Corn, Grilled Blue Marlin w/ Sauce Grenobloise, Grilled Tuna Belly in Kikkoman Cilantro Marinade w/ Tamarind-Miso Dip, B Grilled Squid w/ Hot Chili Soy Vinegar, Grilled Chicken Breasts w/ Green Pepper Corn Sauce, Grilled Prawns w/ Beurre Noisette and Charbroiled Alimango w/ Roasted Siling Panigang Vinegar-Bagoong Isda Dip. **P2,300**

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COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

Weeds, ferns and plant salad

PANCIT-PANCITAN, YAMPONG, TAKIP-kuhol. The names may be strange to most people but to Maur Aquino Lichauco, they are useful weeds.

Lichauco is known to many as a cooking teacher who insists on hands-on training. One day, she decided to show me how some of those weeds could be used for eating.

A description of those weeds, their uses as well as propagation and care are in the book "Ooops... Don't Throw Those Weeds Away." Published by The Fern and Nature Society of which Lichauco is a member, the book also includes ferns, shrubs and vines, palms, trees and roots.

But the weeds were the ones I knew little about. My sister once pointed to me the *pancit-pancitan* (peperomia), which she said was served to her as a salad on one of her many provincial trips.

It was difficult to take her seriously. Most of us trod on these weeds daily in our gardens, hardly paying attention to what we consider as garbage to be thrown away.

After the book came out, Lichauco invited me and her three co-authors to lunch to tell me more about the plants we normally throw away. Two of them made it—Carmen Osmeña Florento and Nonie A. Dolera. Flor Gozon Tarriela was busy that day.

The Blushing Blooms Salad greeted me. It was one of the recipes in the book and consisted of the edible fern *paco* (Diplazium esculentum), the *pancit-pancitan* (Peperomia pellucida) and a strange ingredient described to me as wild *pipino*.

Mini cucumbers

The wild *pipino* looked like miniature cucumbers and were as crunchy. They were taken from Lichauco's farm where the plant grew almost everywhere so that it became invasive and could be a real "pest," she said.

People in the surrounding area of her farm warned her the plant might be poisonous but she told them it was not.

BLUSHING Blooms Salad with creamy dressing

Ooops...Don't Throw Those Weeds Away!
Ooops...Don't Th Those Weeds Aw

MAUR Aquino Lichauco (left) with Carmen Osmeña Florento

For the authors, if certain plants like weeds can be identified as edible, then no one need go hungry in the countryside. The book's dedication page is emphatic about that. It reads, "*Walang Pilipinong dapat magutom*: No Filipino should go hungry."

But while some weeds are edible, they have to be cleaned like salad greens. Lichauco gave a helpful tip—wash with water with ¼ teaspoon salt added.

The Blushing Blooms Salad that lunch digressed a bit with the addition of jackfruit strips that contributed not only flavor but also a striking color. The creamy dressing consisted of mayonnaise and pickle relish, *calamansi* juice, vinegar and chopped onions and garlic seasoned with salt, sugar and white pepper.

The recipe said to decorate the salad with edible flowers as well. Lichauco mentioned two I had encountered, wine-red *katuray* and blue *ternate*.

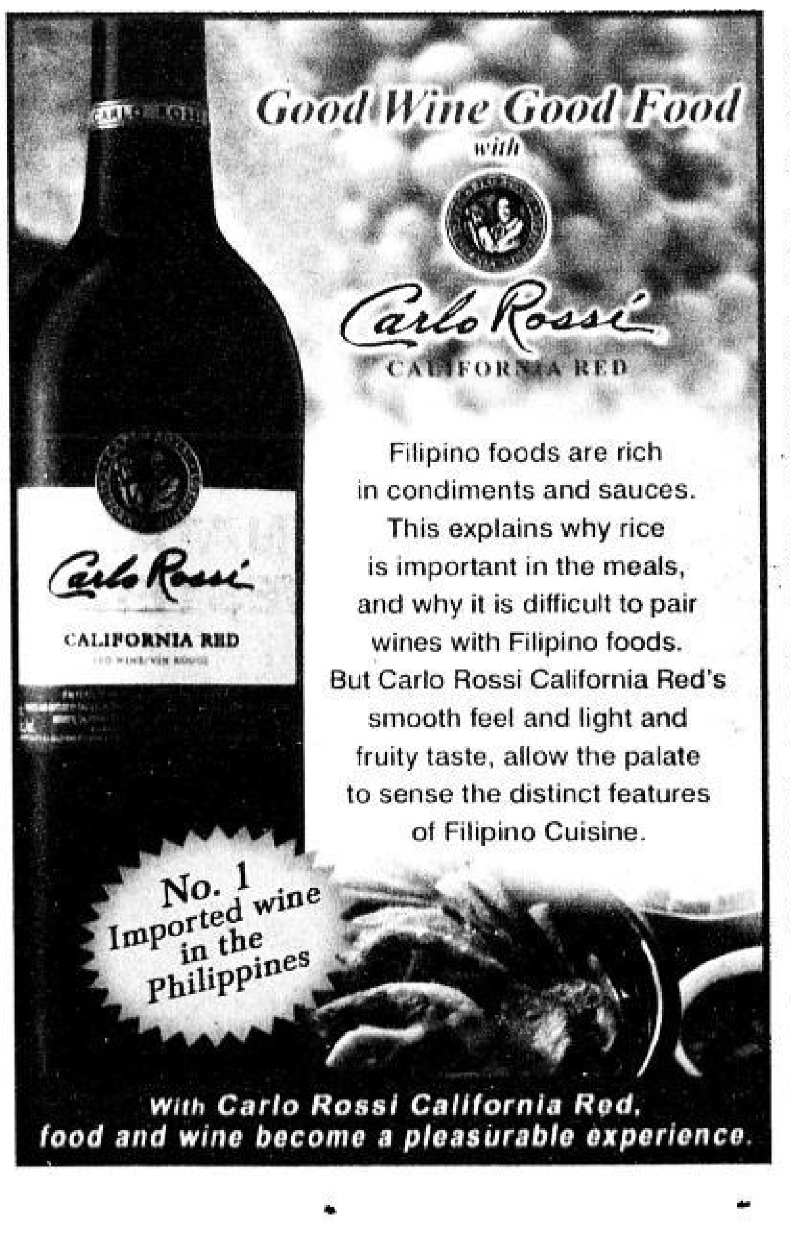
Despite its name, the *katuray* or vegetable hummingbird (Sesbania grandiflora) is a beautiful flower. It has a white variety as well. The book suggests removing the stamen to take out the bitterness.

The blue *ternate* I'd seen in Quezon, at Ugo Bigyan's home where it grows as a vine around his fence. Its electric-blue color added sparkle to the pottery artist's grayish but nevertheless wonderful *kulawo*, banana heart salad with a dressing of coconut milk extracted from the charcoal-toasted scraped meat.

But I was surprised when the *cadena de amor* or Mexican creeper was recommended as a flower ingredient. Unlike the *katuray*, its name is as beautiful as its heart-shaped flowers.

In using these flowers, the book cautions

WEEDS/ C2



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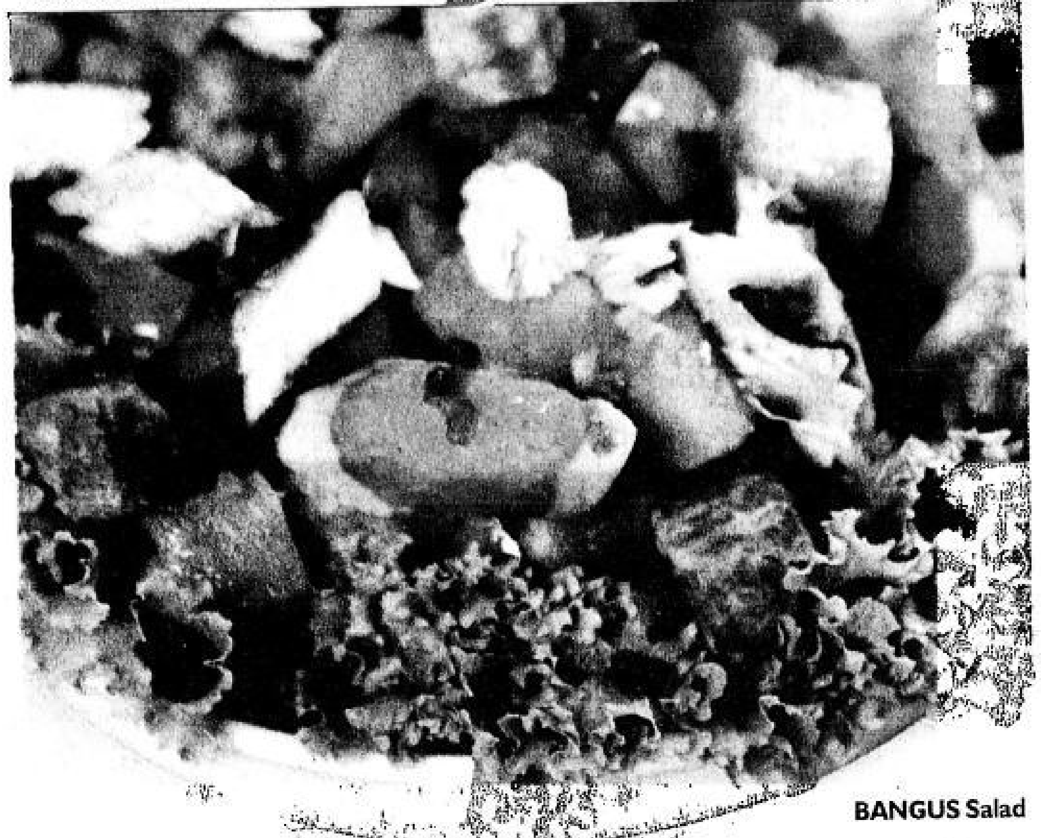


BANGUS Salad

A meal in itself

A COLD SALAD FOR APPETIZER OR A meal in itself, Bangus Salad is made from three kinds of sweet potatoes (yellow, white, and violet) and mixed with smoked *bangus*.

It is one of the bestsellers that Bangus Specialty Restaurant is offering at its new branch at Level M-1 fronting the scenic elevator and garden in Trinoma, the first Ayala-owned shopping mall in Quezon City.

Here's the recipe from Bangus Republic Inc., owner and manager of Bangust Specialty Restaurant (tel. 7252751 or 721-0794 loc. 33; www.bangusresto.com; e-mail e-mail@bangusrepublic.com).

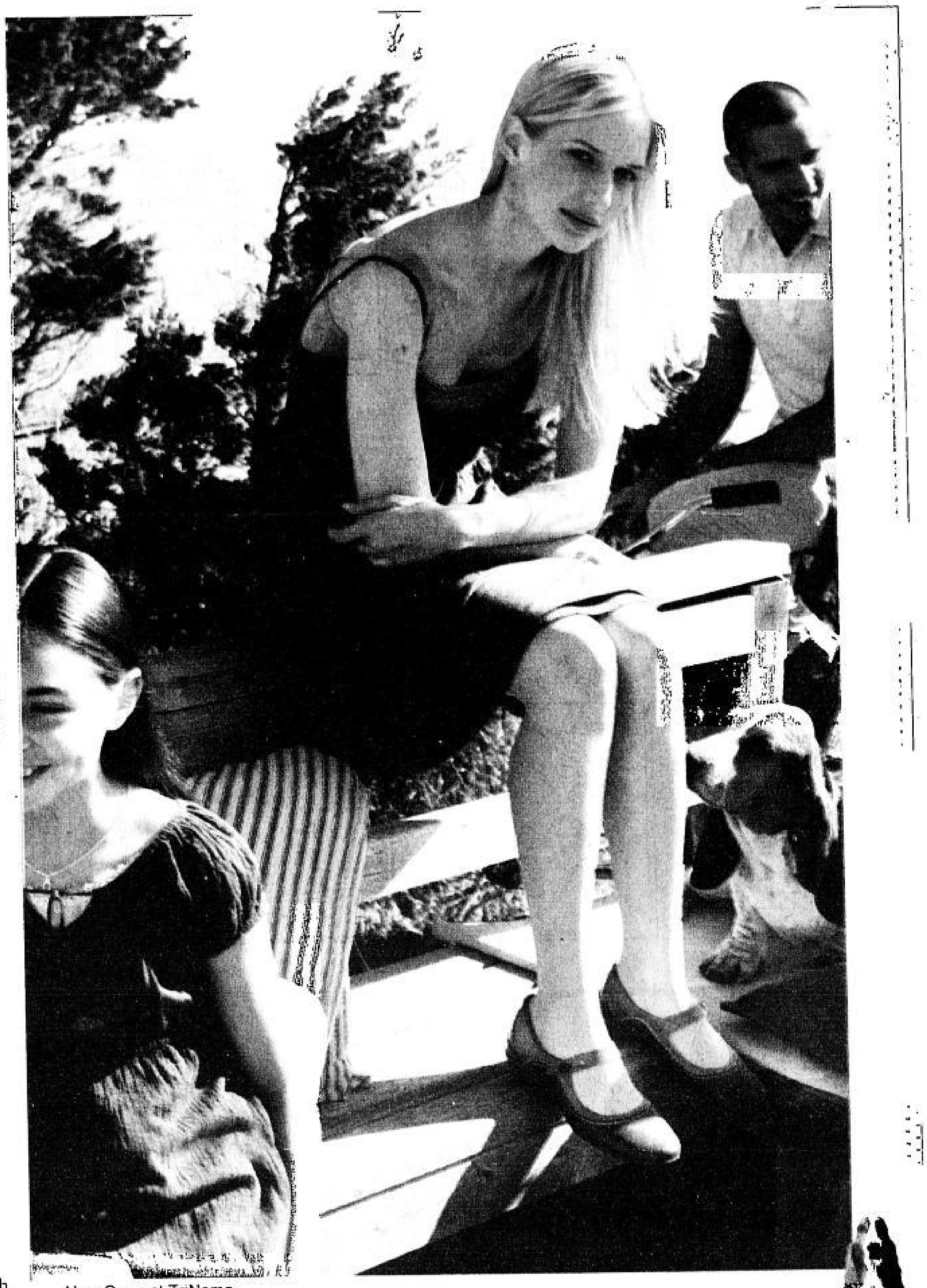
Bangus Salad

25 g *kamote*, yellow
25 g *kamote*, violet
25 g Baguio beans
25 g tomato
15 g shallots
½ pc red egg
75 g *bangus* fillet
5 g iodized salt
5 g ground black pepper
50 g lettuce (Lolo Rossa)
75 g Vinaigrette Sauce

Vinaigrette Sauce

200 g corn oil
20 g garlic
5 g iodized salt
5 g ground black pepper
20 g vinegar

Mix all boiled vegetables together with chopped shallots and add half cup of vinaigrette sauce, season with salt and pepper and serve on a bed of lettuce.



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Glenda Barretto is Ifex food director

GLENDA ROSALES-BARRETTO, ONE OF the country's most successful chefs and restaurateurs, will be the food director of this year's International Food Exhibition (Ifex) Philippines to be held May 18-20 at the World Trade Center, Manila.

Ifex, now on its fourth year, showcases the best offerings of the local food industry. It is organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

This year, the festival focuses on "Filipino Food in a Global Setting."

Barretto has been helping Citem in international food expos where it participates, helping exporters develop recipes that can be cooked in other countries.

She suggests that, aside from participating in trade fairs abroad and organizing local food exhibitions, the government also makes a conscious effort to help food companies put up restaurants in places like Paris, New York, London or Milan.

She says she is willing to train people who will run those restaurants.

The restaurateur says her dream is for Philippine cuisine to be recognized internationally and for Filipinos to be proud of their unique cuisine.

Barretto owns the Via Mare chain. Its first restaurant in Legazpi Village, Makati that opened in 1975 was the first fine dining seafood restaurant in the country. Via Mare became the caterer of choice for Malacañang events.

BARRETTO

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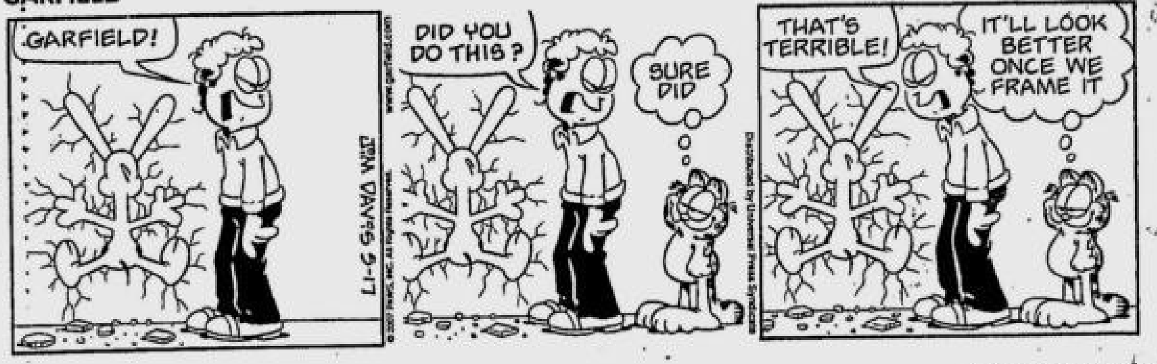
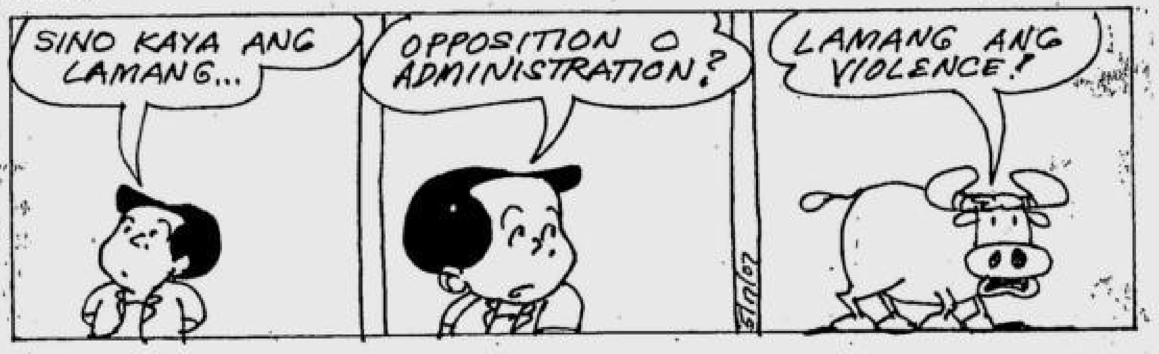
SM NORTH: Jen 926 42 15 / 0905 269 07 17

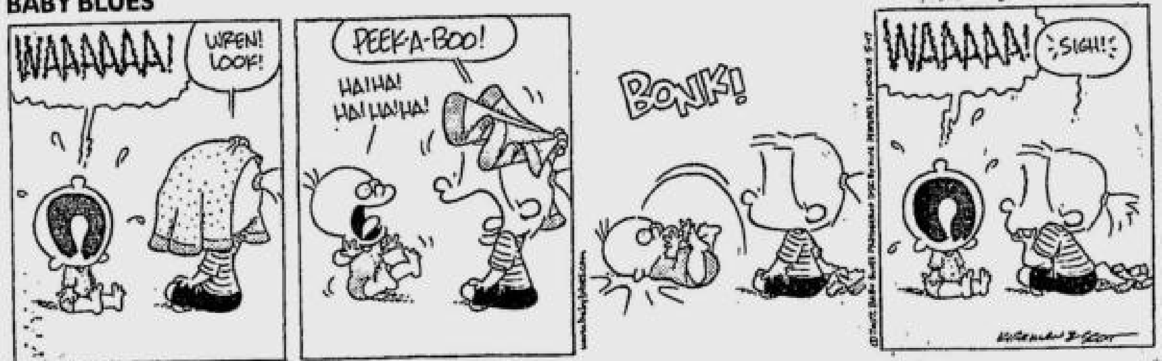
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


GARFIELD!
DID YOU DO THIS?
SURE DID
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
IT'LL LOOK BETTER ONCE WE FRAME IT
JIM DAVIS 5-17

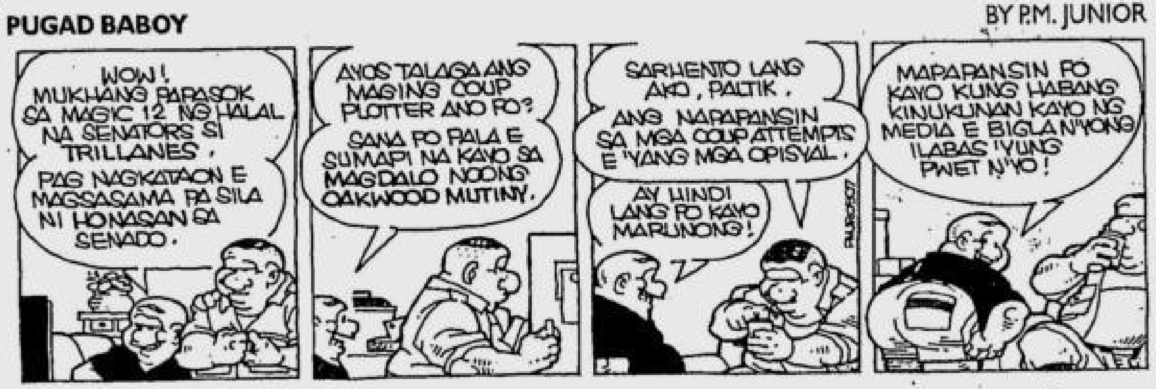
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SINO KAYA ANG LAMANG...
OPPOSITION O ADMINISTRATION?
LAMANG ANG VIOLENCE!
5/17/07

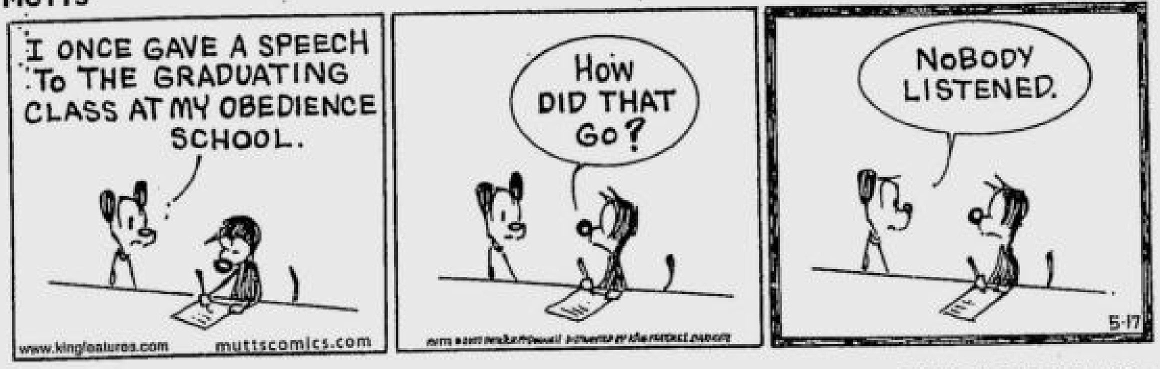
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WAAAAAA!
WREN! LOOK!
PEEK-A-BOO!
HA!HA! HA!HA!HA!
BONK!
WAAAAA!
SIGH!!

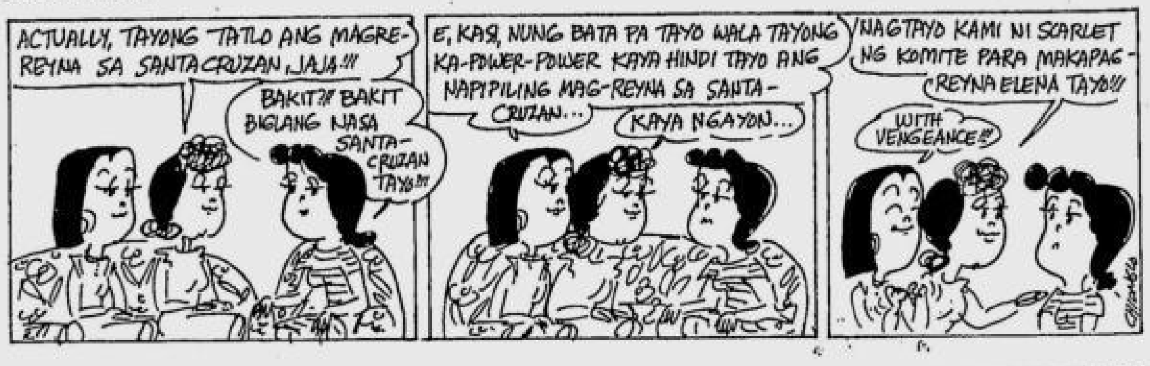
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


WOW! MUKHANG PAPASOK SA MAGIC 12 NG HALAL NA SENATORS SI TRILLANES.
PAG NAGKATAON E MAGSASAMA PA SILA NI HONASAN SA SENADO.
AYOS TALAGA ANG MAGING COUP PLOTTER ANO PO?
SANA PO PALA E SUMAPI NA KAYO SA MAGDALO NOONG OAKWOOD MUTINY.
SARHENTO LANG AKO, PALTIK.
ANG NAPAPANSIN SA MGA COUP ATTEMPTS E 'YANG MGA OPISYAL.
AY HINDI LANG PO KAYO MARUNONG!
MAPAPANSIN PO KAYO KUNG HABANG KINUKUNAN KAYO NG MEDIA E BIGLA N'YONG ILABAS 'YUNG PWET N'YO!

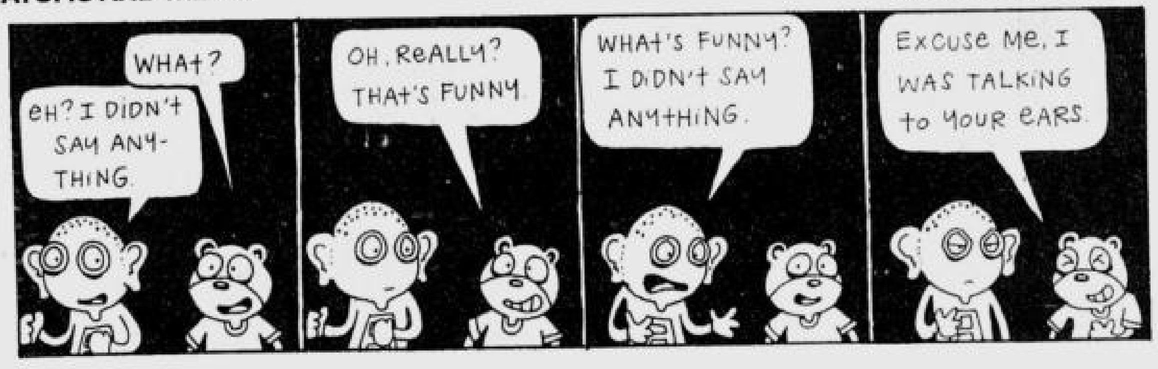
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I ONCE GAVE A SPEECH TO THE GRADUATING CLASS AT MY OBEDIENCE SCHOOL.
HOW DID THAT GO?
NOBODY LISTENED.
5-17
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com

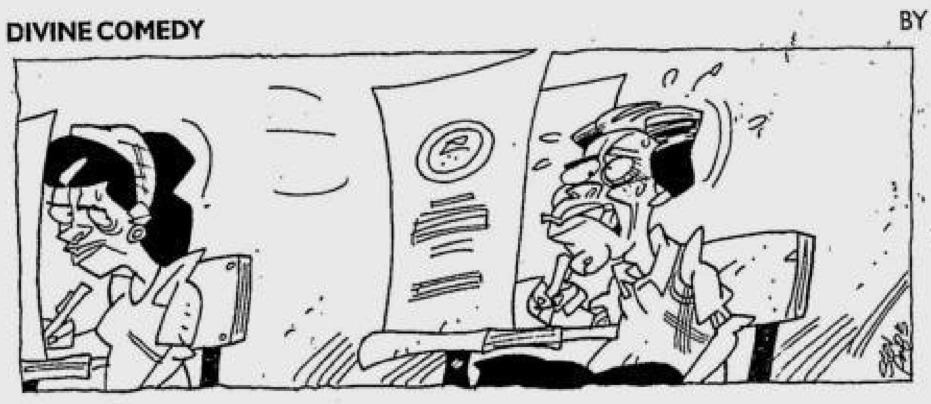
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ACTUALLY, TAYONG TATLO ANG MAGRE-REYNA SA SANTACRUZAN, JAJA!!!
BAKIT?!! BAKIT BIGLANG NASA SANTA-CRUZAN TAYO?!!
E, KASI, NUNG BATA PA TAYO WALA TAYONG KA-POWER-POWER KAYA HINDI TAYO ANG NAPIPILING MAG-REYNA SA SANTA-CRUZAN...
KAYA NGAYON...
NAGTAYO KAMI NI SCARLET NG KOMITE PARA MAKAPAG-REYNA ELENA TAYO!!!
WITH VENGEANCE!!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

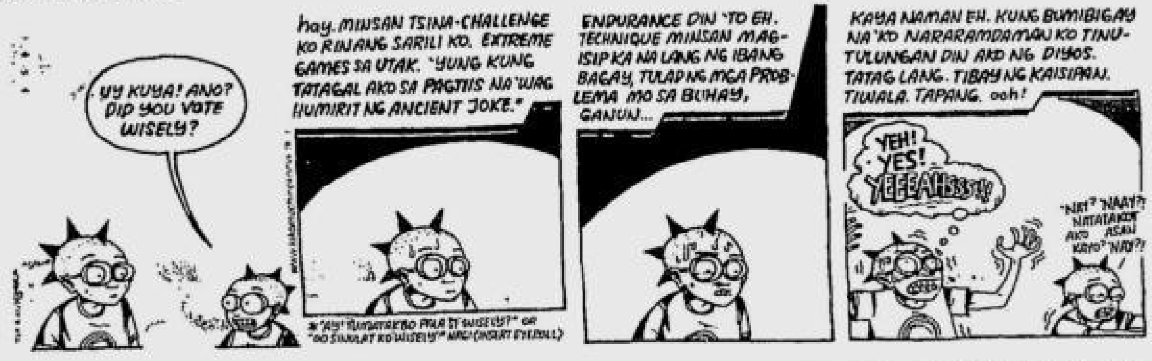

WHAT?
EH? I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING.
OH, REALLY? THAT'S FUNNY.
WHAT'S FUNNY? I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
EXCUSE ME, I WAS TALKING TO YOUR EARS.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

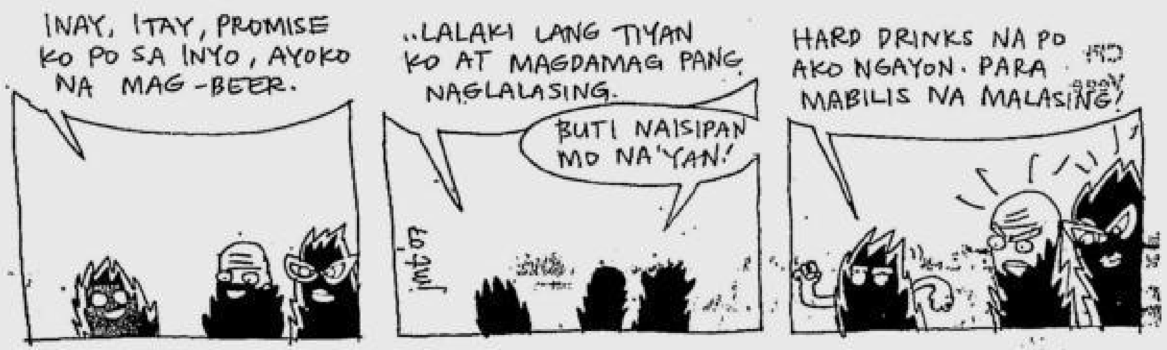


BIGLANG PINAWISAN ANG CLAUSTRO-PHOBIC NA SI BERTO NANG SIYA AY PUMASOK SA ISANG VOTING BOOTH

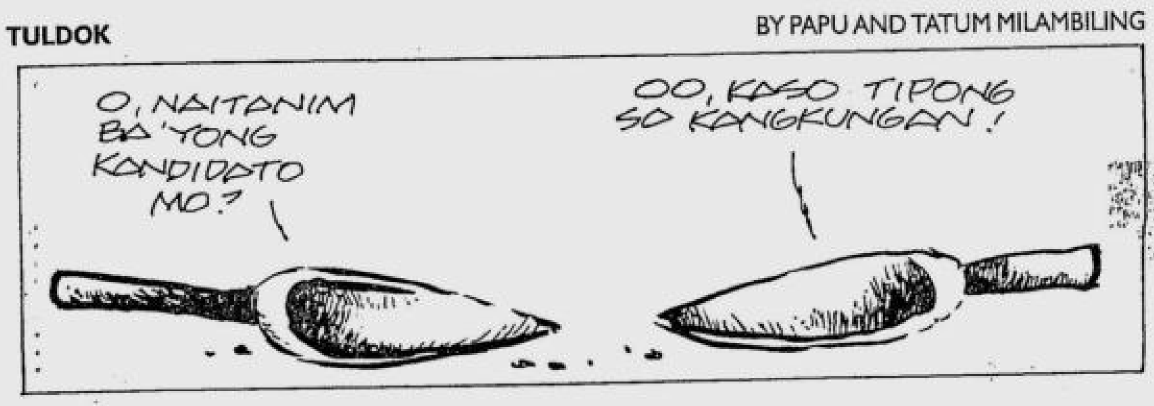
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


UY KUYA! ANO? DID YOU VOTE WISELY?
hay. MINSAN TSINA-CHALLENGE KO RIN ANG SARILI KO. EXTREME GAMES SA UTAK. "YUNG KUNG TATAGAL AKO SA PAGTIIS NA 'WAG HUMIRIT NG ANCIENT JOKE."
ENDURANCE DIN 'TO EH. TECHNIQUE MINSAN MAG-ISIP KA NA LANG NG IBANG BAGAY, TULAD NG MGA PROBLEMA MO SA BUHAY, GANUN...
KAYA NAMAN EH. KUNG BUMIBIGAY NA 'KO NARARAMDAMAN KO TINUTULUNGAN DIN AKO NG DIYOS. TATAG LANG. TIBAY NG KAISIPAN. TIWALA. TAPANG. ooh!
YEH! YES! YEEEAHSSS!!
"NAY? NAAY?! NATATAKOT AKO ASAN KAYO? NAY?!"

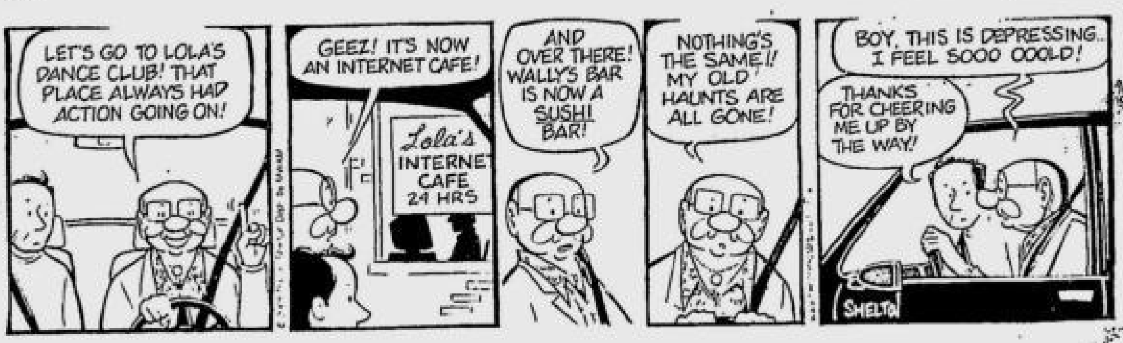
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, ITAY, PROMISE KO PO SA INYO, AYOKO NA MAG-BEER.
..LALAKI LANG TIYAN KO AT MAGDAMAG PANG NAGLALASING.
BUTI NAISIPAN MO NA'YAN!
HARD DRINKS NA PO AKO NGAYON. PARA MABILIS NA MALASING!

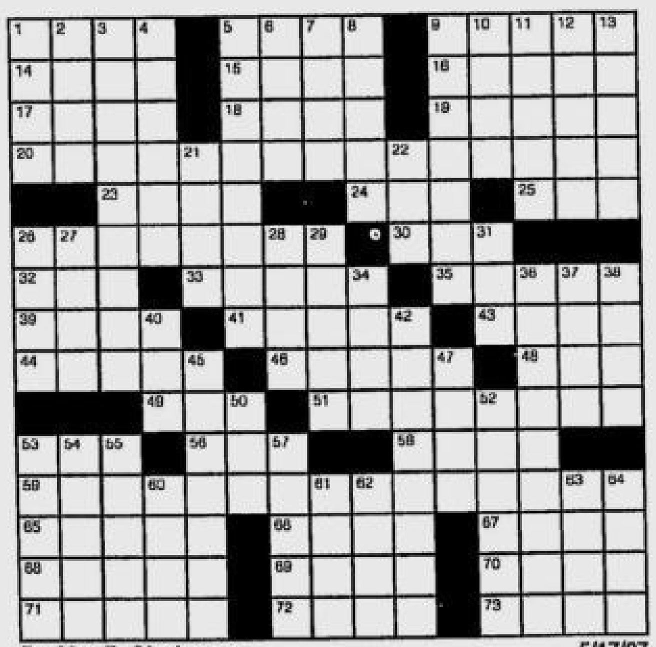
TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


O, NAITANIM BA 'YONG KANDIDATO MO?
OO, KASO TIPONG SA KANGKUNGAN!

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


LET'S GO TO LOLA'S DANCE CLUB! THAT PLACE ALWAYS HAD ACTION GOING ON!
GEEZ! IT'S NOW AN INTERNET CAFE!
Lola's INTERNET CAFE 24 HRS
AND OVER THERE! WALLY'S BAR IS NOW A SUSHI BAR!
NOTHING'S THE SAME!! MY OLD HAUNTS ARE ALL GONE!
BOY, THIS IS DEPRESSING. I FEEL SOOO OOOLD!
THANKS FOR CHEERING ME UP BY THE WAY!
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
5/17/07

ACROSS
1 Is indebted
5 Aromatic seasoning
9 Equality grp.
14 Dolly of "Hello, Dolly!"
15 And others, briefly
16 Soft down
17 Consider
18 Sucker
19 Battery terminal
20 Start of Robin Williams quote
23 Fixative
24 Color changer
25 Slalom starter?
26 Dangerous structure
30 Sixth sense?
32 Sue ___ Langdon
33 Soft drinks
35 Spud
39 Frosted
41 Part 2 of quote
43 Female noble
44 Highway subdivisions
46 Earn
48 Little nipper
49 Got the gold
51 Promise breakers
53 Boom times
56 Seize suddenly
58 Kiwi cousins
59 End of quote
65 Lena or Marilyn
66 Park and Lex.
67 Bounder
68 George who was Mary
69 Trifling
70 Bell sound
71 Reddish horses
72 Geraint's loyal lady
73 Males-only affair

DOWN
1 Auto pioneer
2 Shed tears
3 1976 Streisand hit
4 Figure of speech
5 Alternative to a fence
6 Needle case
7 Strikes
8 Amalgamation
9 Most tidy
10 Indigenous people of Japan
11 Revere
12 Relinquishes
13 Iron
21 Brazil and cashew
22 Affirmative vote
26 Come up short
27 Machu Picchu resident
28 Actor West
29 Check writer
31 Tablet
34 Hurting
36 Becomes established
37 Kuwaiti ruler
38 Crimson and scarlet
40 Morning moisture
42 Used a ruse
45 Petrarch's poems
47 Off. helper
50 Pester
52 Sentries
53 Theater employee
54 Director Pier ___ Pasolini
55 Assad's country
57 Censure
60 Not left out of
61 Tied
62 Polo of "Meet the Parents"
63 Albacore, e.g.
64 Safecracker

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	S	T	E	■	C	O	M	P	■	P	O	S	E
A	S	H	E	N	■	O	D	O	R	■	A	V	E	R
L	E	A	N	S	■	L	E	I	A	■	L	E	N	A
F	A	M	O	U	S	L	A	S	T	F	O	R	D	S
■	■	■	R	E	T	E	■	T	E	A	M	■	■	■
L	A	D	■	S	O	A	P	■	S	T	I	N	T	S
A	S	A	P	■	A	G	A	S	■	S	N	A	I	L
M	I	N	I	A	T	U	R	E	N	O	O	D	L	E
A	D	A	M	S	■	E	S	A	I	■	S	I	T	E
R	E	S	I	S	T	■	E	S	S	E	■	A	S	K
■	■	■	E	E	R	O	■	H	E	N	S	■	■	■
C	O	U	N	T	E	R	F	E	I	T	P	I	L	L
H	I	N	T	■	P	A	L	L	■	I	O	N	I	A
A	S	T	O	■	I	T	A	L	■	R	I	G	O	R
R	E	O	S	■	D	E	B	S	■	E	L	E	N	A

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5/17/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very intense about whatever you do. (Some might even call you fanatical.) You cut to the chase because you don't hesitate to speak your mind. You're dedicated and responsible about whatever you undertake. You're also very private: Only a few close people really know you. Work hard to build or construct something this year. Your rewards will soon follow.

Birthdate of: Sasha Alexander, actress; Enya, singer; Bob Saget, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a busy day! It's excellent for errands, buying and selling, entering new agreements, taking short trips, talking to siblings and relatives and reading, writing and studying. Go, go, go!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your attention turns to financial matters today. You're focused on how to boost your earnings, and you're also probably doing some shopping. Ka-ching.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might feel a bit more emotional than usual today because the Moon is in your sign for today and tomorrow. Fortunately, this brings you a little bit of extra good luck!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Work behind the scenes today or work alone if you can. (Hide behind this paper and do the crossword puzzle.) Try to find a little solitude if you possibly can.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): A female friend might have something important to tell you today. Be a sympathetic listener. (You are often very generous this way.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Quite likely, you will do something today that calls attention to yourself. Conversations with bosses, VIPs, parents and teachers are significant. (Is your zipper done up?)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Try to do something different from your daily routine today. Go someplace you've never been before. Talk to people from other countries or different cultures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Give some thought to details related to shared property, estates, insurance matters, inheritances and the like. Clear up some loose ends here if you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You'll have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today. Be very patient. Listen to what others have to say. Give extra attention to your partner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Conversations with co-workers might be emotional today. Listen carefully to what others have to say. When people are emotional, their logic goes out the window. Oy!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You really want to play today! Romance, love affairs and mild flirtations could make your day. Take extra time at lunch if you can. Meet friends for happy hour. The arts, children's activities and anything having to do with sports will please you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Dealings with a parent or some domestic issues will be your primary focus today. Home, family and real estate matters are tops on the menu now.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				2		8		
		1						
	4		3		8			2
		8			6	5		
2								6
		9	4			7		
4			2		5		3	
						1		
		7		1				

Difficulty Level ★★★
5/17

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	1	7	8	9	4	5	6
9	8	5	6	3	4	2	7	1
6	4	7	1	5	2	8	3	9
7	9	8	3	4	6	5	1	2
1	3	2	9	7	5	6	8	4
4	5	6	8	2	1	3	9	7
8	6	3	4	1	7	9	2	5
5	1	9	2	6	3	7	4	8
2	7	4	5	9	8	1	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

1 **CHOP** romaine lettuce into bite-size pieces. Set aside.

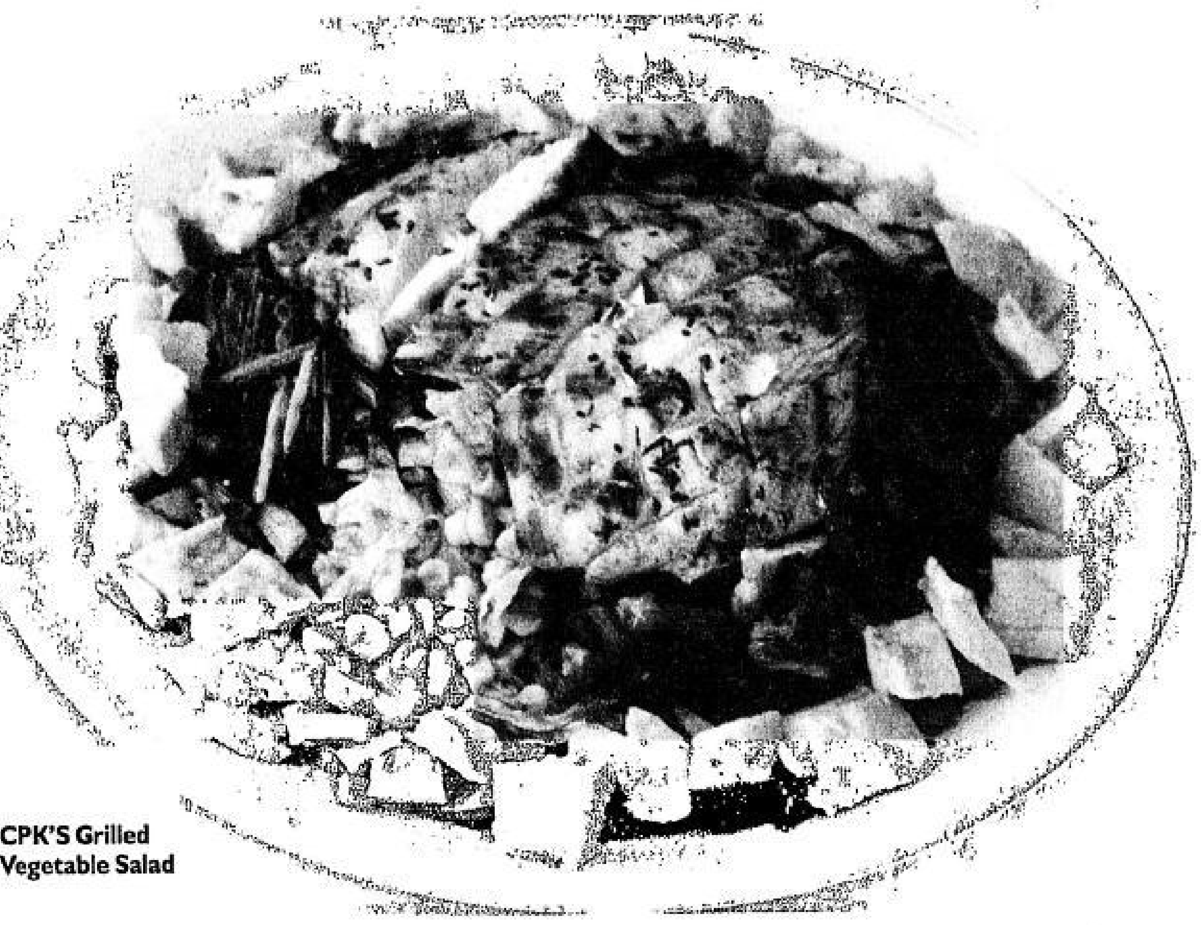
2 **MARINATE** chicken in olive oil, white wine, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce and bay leaf for at least 30 minutes. Grill chicken, skin side first, for two to three minutes. Then another two to three minutes for the other side. Sprinkle with salt and rosemary. Cut grilled chicken into strips. Set aside.

3 **LIGHTLY** brush all vegetables with olive oil mixed with salt and pepper.

4 **PLACE** on grill and cook over medium-high, occasionally turning until tender and slightly charred, about two to three minutes.

'Grilling' a salad

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Ryan Lim



CPK'S Grilled Vegetable Salad

WHEN THE TEMPERATURE RISES and all you have the energy to eat is something light and cool, a salad can fill you up without making you feel bloated.

And you can fix yourself a salad in no time at all with this cool recipe that is a unique combination of warm and cold ingredients, courtesy of your favorite salad and pizza place, California Pizza Kitchen, .

The Grilled Vegetable Salad is a merry mix of grilled asparagus, eggplant, zucchini, sun-dried tomatoes, scallions and roasted corn, served warm and tossed with romaine lettuce in a Dijon balsamic vinaigrette. It is topped with fresh avocado. As an option, you can add grilled rosemary chicken breast or grilled shrimp.

Blending vegetables off the grill with fruits and fresh greens, you come up with an appetizingly crisp, colorful and multi-textured salad.

"The smoky vegetables can easily liven up any salad of choice," says chef Jam Olaes, CPK's senior quality assurance director. "The grilled vegetable salad has been the store's bestseller since we introduced it a few months ago."

CPK has its own mix of marinade for its chicken and a special Dijon dressing for the salad. But it recommends substitutes if you wish to try the recipe at home.

You can purchase a bottle of balsamic vinaigrette in major supermarkets. Enhance the taste of the vinaigrette by adding Dijon mustard, garlic, salt and pepper and olive oil. Blend according to taste.

You can also get sun-dried tomatoes from supermarkets.

Grill the vegetables in batches; the more vegetables, the better. Remove them from the grill as soon as they are cooked. When grilling asparagus, place it across the grate so it does not fall through. Roll the asparagus on the grill to turn and cook until crisp-tender, about three minutes, depending on the size of the spears. Grill the zucchini and eggplant, turning once, until tender.

CPK has branches in Glorietta 3, Ayala Center Makati; Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa; Belaggio Square, Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Shangri-La Mall, Mandaluyong; and Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan.

Ingredients

Romaine lettuce
Dijon balsamic vinaigrette
Sun-dried tomatoes
Corn in can, drained
Green onions (scallions)
Zucchini, cut lengthwise
Asparagus
Eggplant, cut lengthwise
Avocado, 1/2" diced
Chicken breast
Rosemary

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

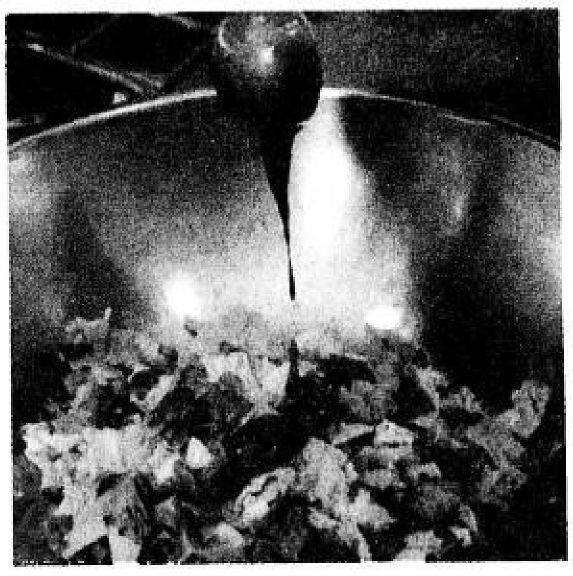
STEP BY STEP

This recipe from CPK is a unique combination of warm and cold ingredients

5 **MEANWHILE,** saute corn in pan. Add a dash of salt. Cook until brown. Transfer corn to plate. Set aside. Place grilled veggies on a tray to cool. Then chill for 10-15 minutes.

6 **CUT** all veggies into bite-size pieces.

7 **ARRANGE** veggies around the plate. Microwave for a few seconds to avoid spoilage.



8 **PLACE** lettuce on a bowl. Add Dijon balsamic vinaigrette. Mix well. Assemble lettuce on a platter in mounds.

9 **SURROUND** with warmed vegetables. Spread avocado pieces over the top of the salad.

10 **SERVE** chicken breast on top.

White asparagus festival

THE PENINSULA MANILA'S OLD MANILA restaurant is holding "The White Asparagus Festival." Adam Mathis, executive chef, offers asparagus dishes from appetizer and soup to main dish. The festival also includes "Ahhhhh ...asparagus!" a cooking class 9 a.m.-12 noon, May 26. Call 8872888.

HOLIDAY INN GALLERIA Manila presents Kids Dine for Free for children 7 years old and younger who are dining with their parents (four kids per family). The promo is valid every day, including holidays, for breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet at the FAB restaurant. Call 6337111.

HYATT HOTEL AND CASINO'S Li Li offers Sunday Brunch featuring dim sum selections like Steamed Pork Dumplings with Flying Fish Roe; Baked Puff Pastries Filled with Honey Barbecued Pork; and Deep-fried Bean Curd Sheets Filled with Shrimp. The buffet is priced at P988+ inclusive of iced tea, soft drinks and local beers. The Fireplace presents white asparagus dishes until May 31. Call 2451234.

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's Prince Albert Rotisserie presents "Ostrich Festival" until May 18. Executive chef Patrick Fournes has prepared such specialties as Ostrich Carpaccio, Ostrich Champagne and Ostrich Duck Liver. Call 8159711.

OLD MANILA'S seasonal menu features white asparagus.

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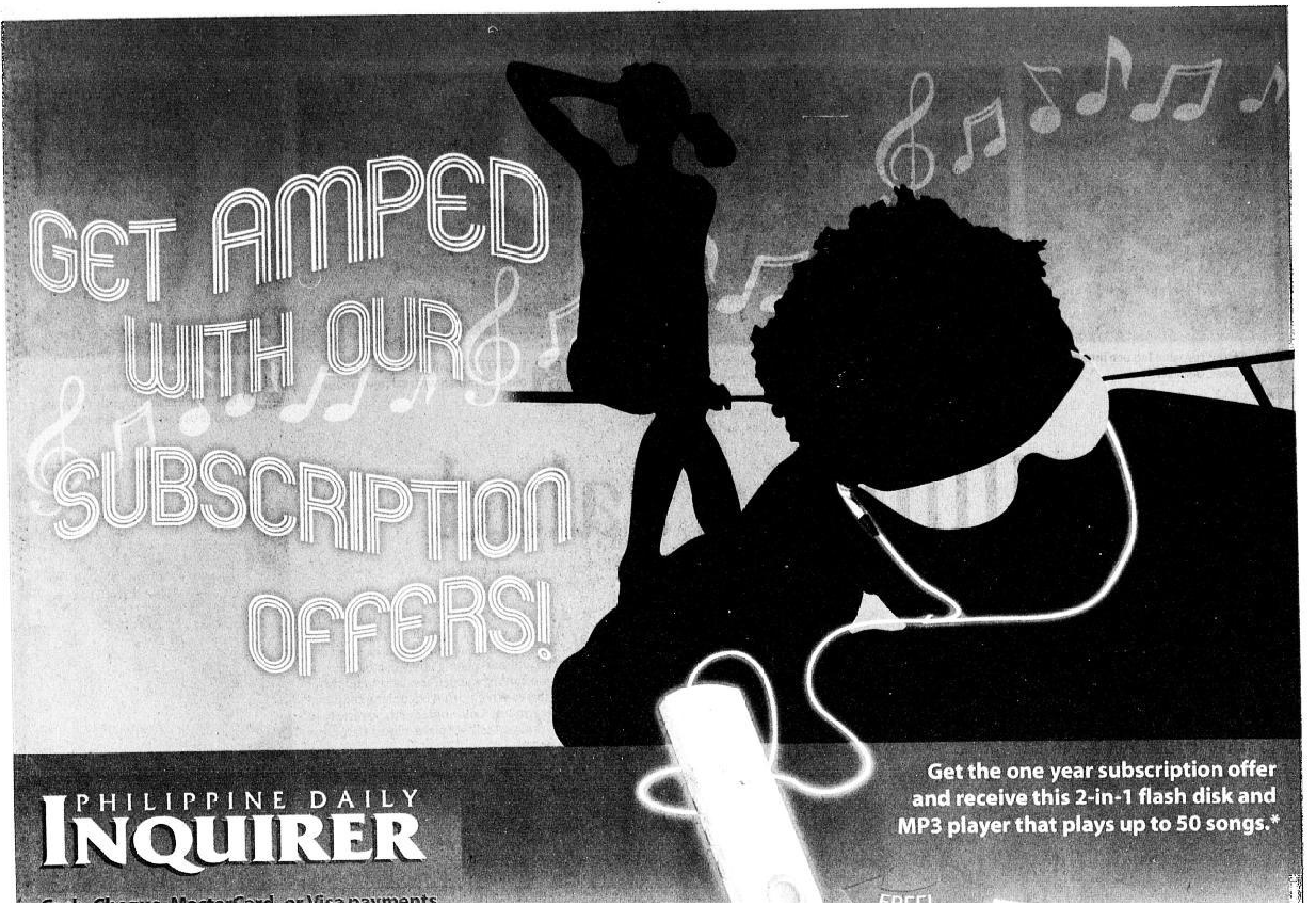
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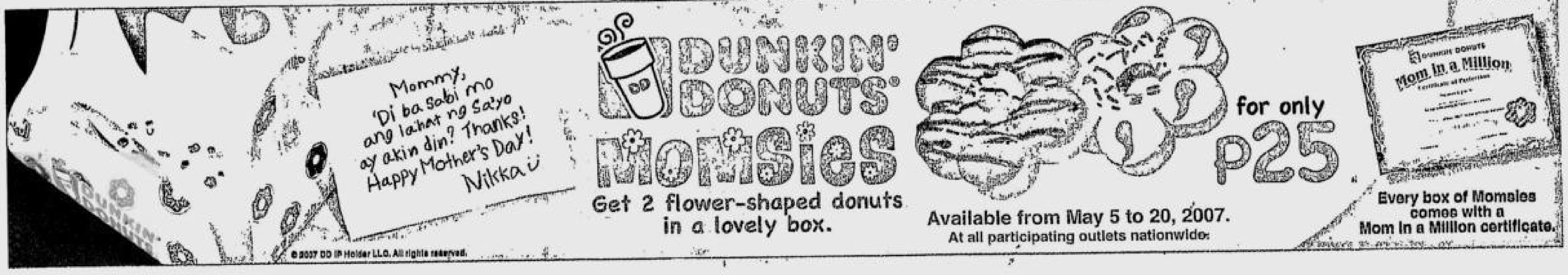

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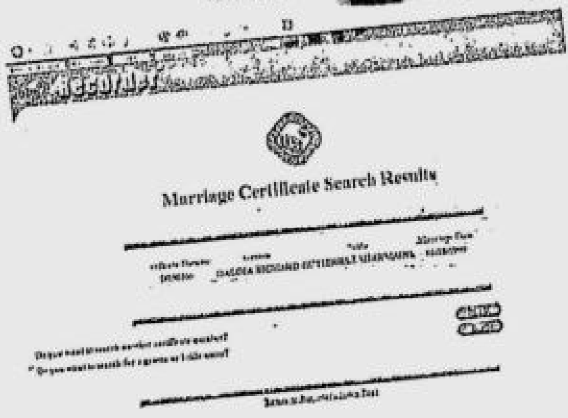
Fan wants to know if Yilmaz is Ruffa's second husband

ANOTHER fan remembers that this event on March 25, 2003 was announced as an "engagement party."

PDI PHOTO



Marriage Certificate Search Results

THIS is what the concerned admirer found on http://sandgate.co.clark.nv.us/recMarriage/marrCert.htm.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

YILMAZ BEKTAS WAS EXPECTED TO BE flying into town at press time on Tuesday evening, according to a news report on GMA 7. Could the public have been deliberately misled about this? First, it was reported that he would turn up Monday, apparently to woo back his estranged wife **Ruffa Gutierrez**, who's been threatening to seek annulment of their four-year-old marriage.

Then on Tuesday morning, a newspaper report, not in the INQUIRER, said that Yilmaz had cancelled his planned trip.

Earlier, a friend of Ruffa's told INQUIRER Entertainment: "I wouldn't be surprised if Yilmaz suddenly appeared, with his whole family, to fetch Ruffa. That's their (Turkish) tradition. But I'm sure her family will not let her go easily, if they let her go at all."

This same friend swears Ruffa has been so in love with Yilmaz, that he is, for her, the main measure of handsome-ness. "For example," says the friend, "she would remark, '*Ang guapo niya, kamukha ni* Yilmaz.'"

This whole mess is so sad.

On the bright side, I had a blast with colleagues **Mario Bautista** and **Rey Pumaloy** at "Showbiz Central" on Sunday. It's always a treat to work with the show's zany hosts Pia, John and Raymond.

I wanted to corner Tita **Annabelle Rama** in the dressing room about the big issue, but she was very intently watching Ruffa's "The Buzz" interview on ABS-CBN.

The embattled but bejeweled mother and daughter neither confirmed nor denied speculations that Yilmaz had violent tendencies. But their tears said what words could not.

A request?

I remember when I was seated beside Tita Annabelle at the Imperial Palace about a year ago during the press con for the movie "White Lady." I overheard her say to Yilmaz on the phone: "You allow Ruffa to work here." Was she asking him or telling him? I couldn't tell.

Apparently, Ruffa tried to turn her back on showbiz when she stayed in Turkey. But she couldn't ignore her true calling. Clearly, she sacrificed a lot for Yilmaz. Have all those sacrifices turned to suffering?

I trust that Ruffa's done licking her own wounds. If Yilmaz presses his suit,

FAN/ E2

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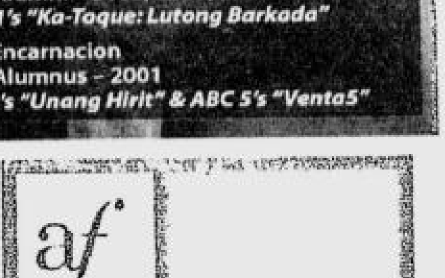

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2 SEX EDUCATION

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Fan wants to know . . .

From page E1

would Ruffa give in, give up or give way?

Feedback

Here are some reactions from readers:

- Are Ruffa and Yilmaz really married? I remember in a mag interview, Ruffa or her mom said that the Fort event was an engagement ceremony and that the actual wedding was to take place in Turkey. Has this happened? Wouldn't they have made a big media event out of it?—Gel5552005@yahoo.com
- Is it true that Ruffa Gutierrez (a.k.a. Sharmaine Gutirerrez) was married to someone else in Nevada last 1999? Check out http://sandgate.co.clark.nv.us/recMarriage/marrCert.htm. Enter document number D030366.

I just really want to know the truth since I am a huge fan of hers.—ejiev2000@yahoo.com

(We checked and found this document on page E/1. We called one of Ruffa's spokespersons, but he said he couldn't reach Ruffa or Annabelle for comment.—Ed.)

- Is Ruffa really replacing Kris on "The Buzz?" No wonder she's doing a Kris Aquino by baring everything to the public, with matching tears!—daffy714@yahoo.com
- If Ruffa has really been a battered wife for four years, why are there no traces of it? No bruises on her body or face! Considering *na ganda ang puhunan niya, dapat* first time *pa lang siya sinaktan ni* Yilmaz *eh nilayasan na niya!*—raphaeldesigns@yahoo.com

Birthday treat

On to another Rufa … **Rufa Mae Quinto** is celebrating her

FAN/E3

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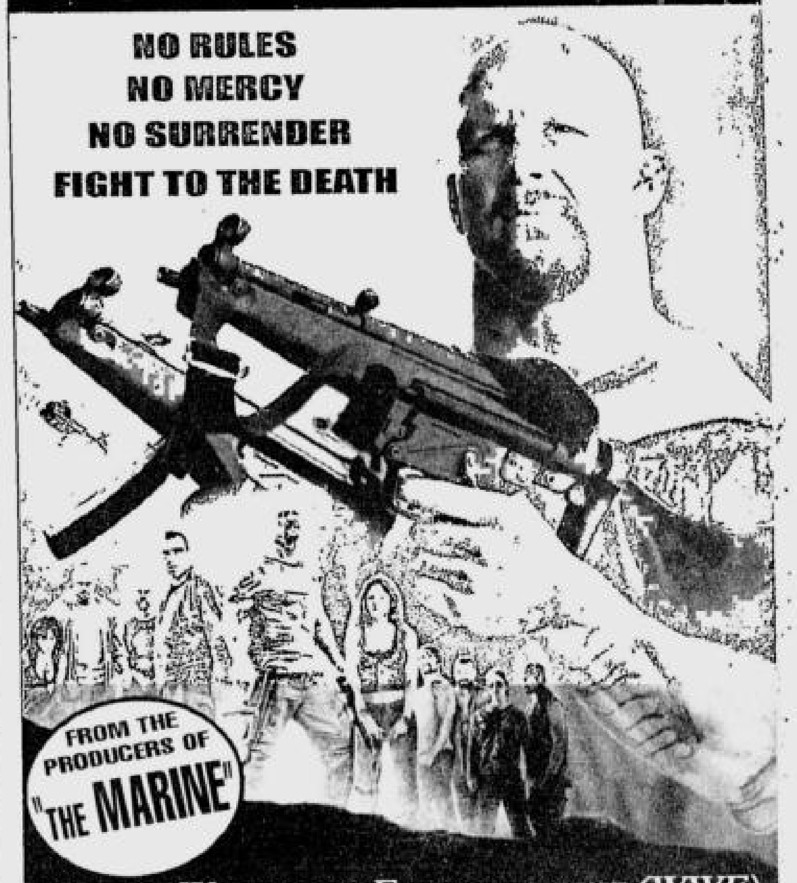
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BAR TOUR Cowboy Grill May 17 [illegible] • Mugen Bar, Metrowalk May 19

Fan wants to . . .

From page E2

birthday in a unique way this year. She will treat select friends (max 50) to a day of pampering in her fave spa. It's so Peachy (her pet name)! Her year-round friendship is soothing to those who truly know her inside out.

Guess list

- Guess who this award-winning actor is. His vanity seems to be getting in the way of his acting. Seems like he has done too much Botox, which has frozen his facial expressions. Too bad. If only there was a treatment to rejuvenate his acting, too.

Clue: The actor has kids.

Summer party

The I-On Summer Invasion began with a bang in Boracay. Celebs spotted partying were **Borgy Manotoc**, **Ornussa Cadness**, **Marc Nelson** and **Amanda Griffin**, among others. The fun continues tomorrow, 10 p.m. at Embassy Club. Come in your trendiest white outfit for the "I-On White Party" to be hosted by **Tim Yap** and **Will Devaughn**.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

'Hoarse voice' . . .

From page E6

I'm not going to complain because it's better than what I used to make.

How did you cope with being away from your daughter while you competed?

It was really, really hard, but I have a strong support system. I have my mother who takes care of my daughter while I'm away. I have my grandmother who supports me and encourages me and pray for me.

What was your favorite performance?

"And I'm Telling You." That was my opening number and the message was, "I'm telling you America, I'm going to stay ... I'm not going nowhere."

In your going-away video, you said, "Everyone has a story," and you cried when you said that. What did you mean?

Everyone has a story, and nobody knows mine like I do.

When are we going to hear that story?

I don't know. Maybe in a movie or something.

You obviously learned a great deal from being on the show. What do you think are your strong points and growth areas?

I've never, never really sang all those kinds of music, so that was a challenge for me. Would I try out for "Idol" again? I probably would. I came into it for one reason—to have a better life. Hopefully, I have achieved that.

What will you first splurge on with your "Idol" money?

A new home for me and my daughter. It doesn't even need to have anything in it. I can't wait to get the keys and open the door and let my baby run through the house.

"American Idol" airs on Star World every Wednesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. live via satellite, 8 p.m. prime time, and 11:30 p.m. replay.

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② SHREK 3 MTRCB GP 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30
④ WHISPER MTRCB. R-13
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MARK GARY'S
SANDALANG BAHAY
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Witness the dramatic & sometimes humorous life and times of a Pinoy family. The film deals with facing one's past and owning up to the truth that resides in the bleakest corner of the soul. This is seen in the intertwining lives of the three Sandalang sisters.
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WHISPER 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50
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FRACTURE 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
SHREK 3 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
Ali MALL 5
1 SHREK 3 2:30 / 4:20 / 6:10 / 8:00
2 FRACTURE 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
3 SPIDERMAN 3 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
4 CONDEMNED 1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00
5 WHISPER 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
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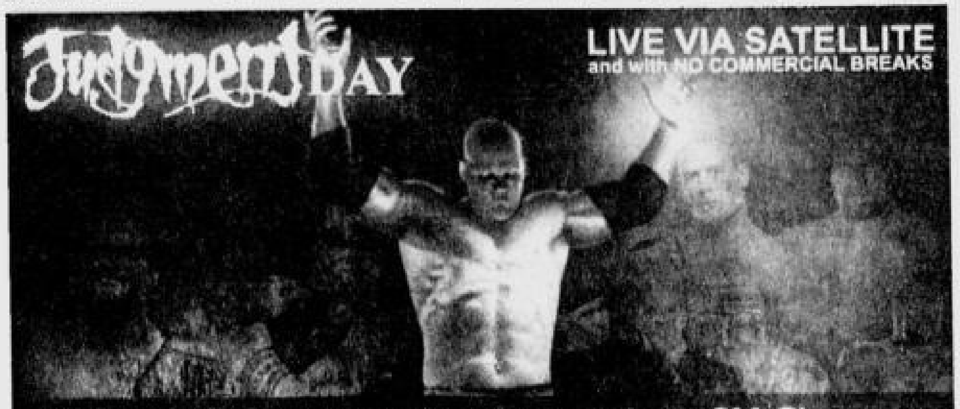

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1 SHREK 3
2 SHREK 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 28 WEEKS LATER
5 FRACTURE
6 WHISPER
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SPIDER-MAN 3
CENTERSTAGE
SPIDER-MAN 3
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CINEMA 1
SHREK 3
CINEMA 2
SPIDER-MAN 3
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1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
5 FRACTURE
6 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 SPIDER-MAN 3
9 28 WEEKS LATER
10 CONDEMNED
11 SPIDER-MAN 3
12 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 SHREK 3
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 SHREK 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 FRACTURE
7 LUCKY YOU
8 CONDEMNED
9 WHISPER
10 SPIDER-MAN 3
11 SPIDER-MAN 3
12 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 FRACTURE
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 CONDEMNED
7 SHREK 3
8 WHISPER
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 SPIDER-MAN 3
11 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
12 LUCKY YOU

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 FRACTURE
3 SHREK 3
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
7 28 WEEKS LATER
8 LUCKY YOU
9 WHISPER
10 CONDEMNED

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 CONDEMNED
4 WHISPER
5 FRACTURE
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SHREK 3
2 FRACTURE
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 28 WEEKS LATER
7 CONDEMNED
8 WHISPER
9 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 WHISPER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 SHREK 3
2 WHISPER
3 FRACTURE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 SPIDER-MAN 3
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 CONDEMNED
11 28 WEEKS LATER
12 LUCKY YOU

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323291-94
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 SHREK 3

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 SHREK 3
2 WHISPER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 28 WEEKS LATER

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 WHISPER

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1 CONDEMNED
2 WHISPER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 FRACTURE
5 SHREK 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
8 28 WEEKS LATER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 WHISPER
5 THE SHOOTER
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SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 WHISPER

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 THE REAPING
4 PERFECT STRANGER

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PAN'S LABYRINTH
3 FIREHOUSE DOG
4 PERFECT STRANGER
5 WHISPER
6 THE SHOOTER

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1 THE SHOOTER
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 THE REAPING

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SUNSHINE
4 PREMONITION

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 SUN
4 SPI

SM [illegible] MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 CONDEMNED

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 SHREK 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PERFECT STRANGER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 WHISPER
6 ROCKY BALBOA

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 THE REAPING
2 THE SHOOTER
3 SUNSHINE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TURISTAS
2 RESERVED
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 PAN'S LABYRINTH
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 PERFECT STRANGER
7 RESERVED
8 THE REAPING

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 WHISPER
5 TURISTAS
6 PREMONITION
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 SPIDER-MAN 3

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1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 THE SHOOTER
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

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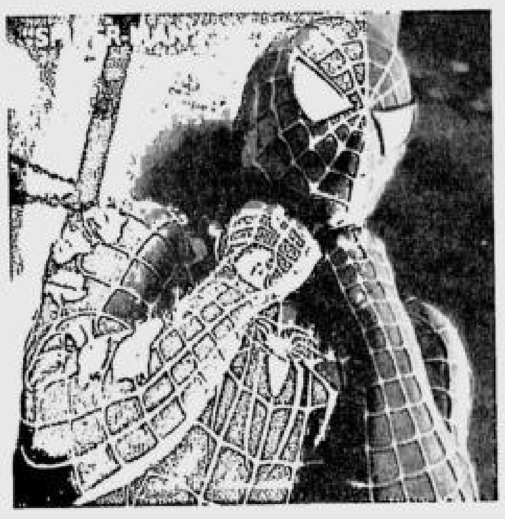
Some downers to high-flying superhero's latest tale



VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WITH "SPIDER-MAN 3" SHOWING ON some 95 percent of all local movie screens on its opening week, practically every Filipino and his best buddy has already seen the hit "sequel to a sequel" to Spidey's high-flying adventures.

Expectedly, there are all sorts of opinions about the blockbuster film, but the fact that it's breaking records all over the world indicates that most viewers like the production.

For our part, we found the movie's flying chase and fight scenes thrilling and executed with imagination and split-second timing that further raised the excitement level.

Tobey Maguire's portrayal of the film franchise's now iconic Peter Parker/Spider-Man lead character is similarly outstanding, especially now that Peter is made to turn "evil" by the sinister, black material from outer space that has become his new superhero get-up.

The physical change in look is digitally pulled off to great effect, but its psychological equivalent turns out to be even more difficult to execute. Thankfully, Maguire is up to the challenge, and even welcomes it, as it gives him an opportunity to break away from his "overgrown kid next door" screen persona.

This isn't "Hamlet," of course, so the "evil" change isn't the most subtle thespic feat in the world. Still, the change of pace shows that Maguire has more to him as an actor than his signature woebegone expression, lopsided grin and lips.

Character hang-up

Kirsten Dunst isn't as fortunate in this production, because her character's main hang-up isn't as interesting as Peter's. In fact, it's a downright downer, because it has something to do with her character's lack of talent!

At film's start, she's one of the leads in a musical revue, but is quickly found wanting and is promptly kicked out of the show. Dunst tries to play the loser as best she can, but her character flaw simply isn't interesting, so she ends up looking vaguely dyspeptic for much of the movie.

Not a very exciting acting assignment, right? Particularly when all those spiffy special effects are stealing your movie from under your pretty feet...

Also a downer is the movie's finale, mainly because it's overlong, and terribly confusing: It features not the usual two main combatants, but *four*. Why everybody was allowed to get in the act is what we want to know.

The film as a whole is also overextended, so the production overstays its welcome by some 15 minutes or so. Happily, its dynamic visuals make the occasionally redundant proceedings tolerable, so no great harm is done to the movie's ability to divert viewers.

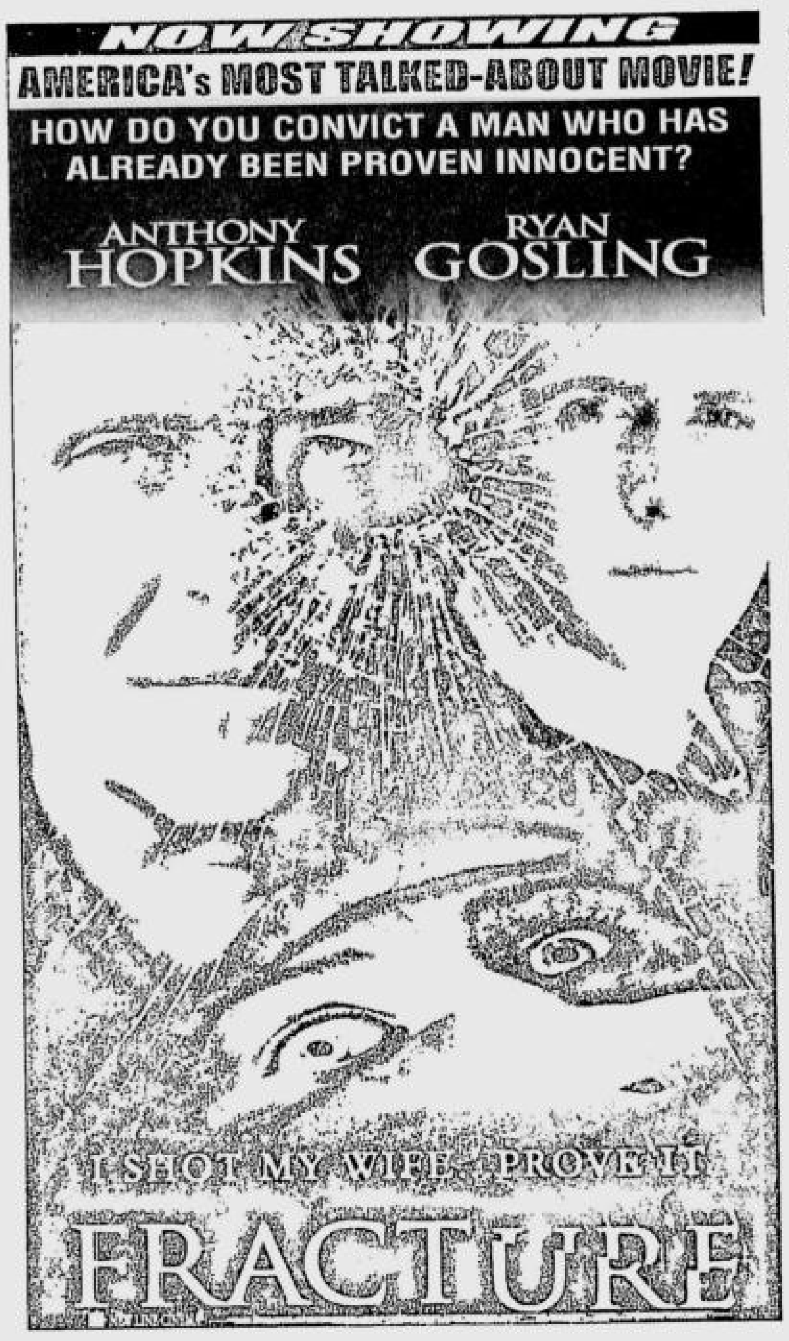
Still, we feel that the Spidey franchise has pretty much played itself out in terms of freshness of material, so we would caution its owners to desist from coming up with another sequel.

Fat chance that they'll pay attention, though, because "Spider-Man 3's" record-breaking success promises many gazillions of dollars more to be made—hence reports that "S4," "S5" and even "S6" are already being planned!

Nothing exceeds like success? You'd better believe it. "Spider-Man Meets Arachnophobia," here we come!

'Dark is Rising'

Newcomer **Alexander Ludwig** is cast as the hero in the supernatural thriller, "Dark Is Rising." He is Will Stanton, a young man who learns he is the last a group of warriors who have dedicated their lives to fighting the forces of the Dark.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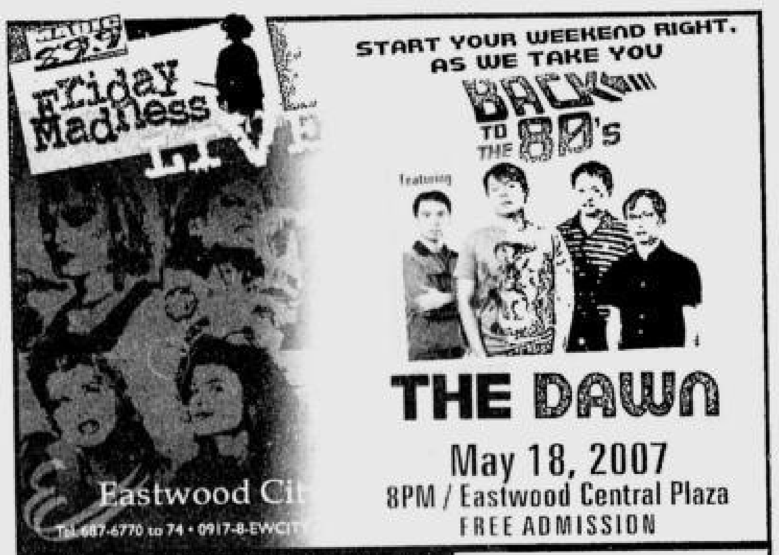
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1	SHREK 3	2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30 G
2	SPIDER-MAN 3	1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00 G
3	SHREK 3	3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30 G
4	FRACTURE	1:05, 3:35 G
4	SPIDER-MAN 3	7:20, 10:30 G

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FRACTURE 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30	SHREK 3 G 2:00,4:05,6:10, 8:05,10:20	SHREK 3 G 3:25,5:30,7:35,9:40
SHREK 3 G 2:45,4:50,6:55,9:00	WHISPER R13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	SPIDER-MAN 3 G 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20

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G1	1 28 WEEKS LATER	2 SHREK 3	3 WHISPER	4 SPIDER-MAN 3
G4	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 FRACTURE	3 THX SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
G4	4 LUCKY YOU	5 SHREK 3	6 SHREK 3	7 WHISPER
GB1	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 SHREK 3		
GB3	1 THX SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS		
GB3	3 FRACTURE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 SPIDER-MAN 3		
ATC	3 FRACTURE	4 WHISPER	5 SHREK 3	
ACC	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 WHISPER	3 TURISTAS	4 GRAY MATTERS
M2	1 SHREK 3	2 FRACTURE		
M2	3 WHISPER	4 SHREK 3	5 SPIDER-MAN 3	

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'Ambassador *of* Song' comes home

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Roger Margallo
Additional photos courtesy of Carmen Pateña

YESTERDAY

STILL in fighting form, Carmen recently had a series of shows at Casino Filipino.

SHE WAS the first Filipino artist to headline a show in Atlantic City.

After 25 years in America, Carmen Pateña is back where it all began

AT THE Top of the Hilton, wearing a peek-a-boo gown bought in Tokyo

AS QUEEN during the Philippine Independence Day parade in the Big Apple, 1982. The boy in the background is her son Ryan.

AT THE 1571 Club, also at the Hilton

MATTER-OF-FACTLY, SHE MENTIONS THAT she sings in about 16 languages.

"That's how I got the title 'Ambassador Singer of the Philippines,'" Carmen Pateña says. She enumerates the languages—dishing out a couple of foreign ditties while at it, as proof.

In the end, we discover that, in fact, it's more than 16 languages—Mandarin, Cantonese, Fookien, Thai, Malay, Japanese, Indian, Korean, German, Italian, Spanish, French, Russian, Portuguese, Hebrew, English and Sinhala (Sri Lanka). Add to the list Ilocano, Kapampangan, Hiligaynon and Tagalog, and she could be considered a musical polyglot.

She asserts that her expansive repertoire is the result of constant traveling and her regular shows in Malacañang in the 1970s. A favorite of the Marcoses, she was often asked to perform for visiting dignitaries.

Dance with Gerald Ford

A nerve-wracking incident was when the first-ever female head of government, Srimavo Bandaranaike of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), visited Manila in the 1970s. Former First Lady Imelda Marcos asked Carmen to master a Ceylonese song a day before the VIP's arrival.

"I went to Ceylon's embassy in Manila that same afternoon and, in my research, found a lullaby entitled 'Mabale Kale,'" Carmen recalls. She proceeds to sing in Sri Lankan, then pauses to say, "It sounds similar to songs from Mindanao."

She recalls how impressed Bandaranaike was. "She asked me when I learned the song. I wanted to tell her, 'Just yesterday!'"

When US President Gerald Ford visited Manila, Carmen was again invited to provide entertainment. She recounts that Ford was initially skeptical. "He said that I might not know his favorites ... songs from the musical 'Oklahoma.'" She remembers feeling like she hit the jackpot. "My pianist Rey Cristobal and I knew all the songs from that Rodgers and Hammerstein musical."

The US president was so captivated, he asked to dance with Carmen.

For emphasis, she belts out "Oklahoma" ditties—"The Surrey with the Fringe on Top" and "People Will Say We're in Love"—with very little provocation, during the interview.

Like a human jukebox, she has memorized the lyrics to more than a thousand songs, she professes.

How to remember

"You have to understand the meaning of each song so that you won't forget them," she points out.

She also keeps trunks filled with full-orchestra *areglos* (musical arrangements), which were required of every respectable singer at the height of the nightclub era.

"I've worked with the best musical directors—Doming Valdez, Angel Peña, Virling Villapando ..."

Times were different then, she sighs. "When people went clubbing, they were dressed to the nines. The best clubs had strict dress codes."

CELEBRATING the birthday of former First Lady Imelda Marcos in New York, 1990.

POSTER for an Atlantic City show with Anthony Castelo

CARING Yandoc has been Carmen's friend and makeup artist for the past 38 years. They met on the set of "Happy-Happy."

Quite naturally, Carmen also donned glittery and glamorous gowns, mostly crafted by top couturier Ben Farrales.

Those were the glory days.

It was her mother's brother, Antonio Salazar, a soldier in the 10th battalion, who persuaded then 16-year-old Carmen to join the music biz.

"I used to imitate Doris Day, Joni James and Jo Stafford. They were known for *tremolo*. I also sang rock 'n' roll."

Her debut was held at a soda fountain near Odeon movie house along Avenida, Luisa and Sons, which was famous as a showcase for divas: Merci Molina, Norma Balagtas and Norma Ledesma.

After her Commerce classes at the University of the East, Carmen trooped to her shows, with mom Lucila in tow.

In 1958, she won the title Ms Luisa and Sons, through a popular vote conducted among the diner's habitués. "I had lots of fans from the Chinese community," she says.

Start of globe-trotting

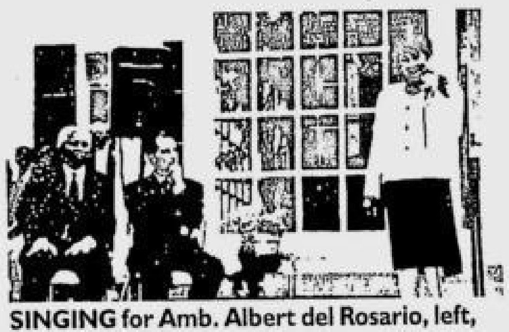
Part of the contest's prize was a trip to Hong Kong—the first step towards Carmen's globe-trotting career.

Later, she flew to Okinawa, to perform for American Air Force officers at the Kadena Officers' Club. Stints in Taipei, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Osaka, Bangkok, Guam, London and Australia followed.

In Hong Kong, she top-billed shows at the Showboat, Latin Quarter, Highball and Palace. In Bangkok, she was a headliner at the Ramis Hilton, Sani Chateau, Siam International, Dusithani Hotel and Café de Paris.

In Café de Paris, she met her first husband, Boon Lenavat of Thailand.

Her mom guarded Carmen like a hawk, dismissing each suitor with an icy glare. "They called my mom Mrs. Bulldog." Boon, however, proved to be her match.



SINGING for Amb. Albert del Rosario, left, and former New Jersey Gov. James Edward McGreevey during the Philippine flag-raising ceremony at the governor's mansion in 2002.

Carmen remembers, "Boon courted my mom. Maybe she realized that he wasn't only good-looking and rich, but also very decent."

Between international concert tours, she starred in two local TV programs: The noontime variety show "Happy-Happy," hosted by Jean Lopez on Channel 11 and the solo musical 'Just Carmen" on Channel 5.

On the latter, Boon once guested and sang a duet of "Close to You" with Carmen.

Career or marriage?

"Everyone said that we'd end up married," Carmen enthuses. "I had to choose between show biz and married life. Of course, I chose Boon."

They tied the knot in 1969. Throughout their married life, the Lenavats were based in Bangkok, even though they also maintained a home in Manila.

"Boon was the jealous type. I could only sing in five-star, exclusive clubs," Carmen says.

In 1974, they parted ways and Carmen resumed her career in Manila. "I sang in Town and Country and Top of the Hilton. I became a regular singer in Malacañang."

She calls former President Ferdinand Marcos *Tatay* (father) and First Lady Imelda, *Nanay* (mother).

"*Tatay* preferred Ilocano songs like 'O Naraniag a Bulan,' while *Nanay* loved 'Cabaret' and 'I'm Glad There is You.' She also liked 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon,' which became the theme of the Opposition after the Ninoy Aquino assassination."

Carmen was known as the Shirley Bassey of the Philippines. "I've never seen [Bassey] perform live, though. Every time she was in Manila, I was abroad."

Perennially footloose and fancy-free, Carmen's vagabond shoes were again longing to stray.

After several ground-breaking shows in the United States (specifically, at the Carnegie Hall in 1976), she moved to New York, where she settled with second husband Dr. Adolfo Ayuyao and son Ryan in 1982.

"I was the first Filipino to perform in Atlantic City, at the Tropicana Casino, in 1985," she says. "(Singer) Dulce told me that I had opened doors for other Filipino artists."

She was living in Battery Park, a stone's throw away from the World Trade Center, when the 9-11 terrorist attacks happened.

"A godchild called and told me to look out the window. I saw the second plane as it hit the tower. It was very traumatic. The building in front of our condo was completely destroyed. We had to evacuate."

Proof of God's love

RP'S SHIRLEY Bassey

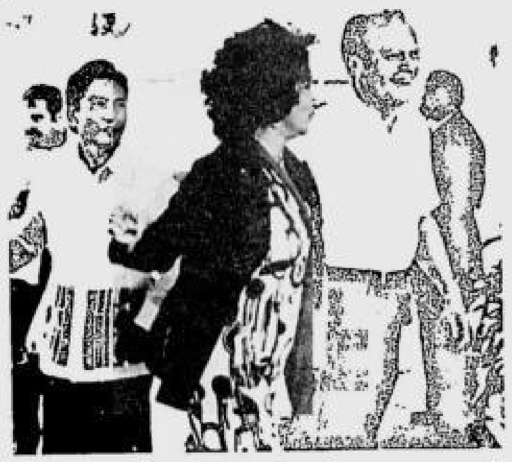
That she survived is "proof that God loves me. My son was spared. He usually took his train ride at the World Trade station. Thankfully, he overslept that morning."

Last year, she decided to relocate to Manila, "for good." The nomad is finally yearning for home.

She now divides her days between concerts (at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque and Capisce Italian Resto-Bar in Metrowalk) and leisurely mahjong and bowling games.

"I also love doing crossword puzzles. Completing a puzzle gives me a great high—as if I've won the lottery," she gushes.

She also watches shows of other performers. "I'm enjoying my life now. On Sundays, we have potluck lunches with my friend Lita Castillo and her sister Nelia. My fan Baby recently gave me *burong isda* (pickled fish) from Tarlac. I'm crazy about *buro*!"



A MALACAÑANG favorite, Carmen, second from right, performed songs from the musical "Oklahoma" for, from left, Ferdinand Marcos and Gerald Ford in the 1970s.

Juday, from Kapamilya to Kapuso ...

From page E6

until Claudine Barretto's date with the stork in July. The plan was for a Juday-Claudine team-up, according to Santos' manager Alfie Lorenzo, who said, "That was taking [too much] time. As if *pinapaasa lang kami* (It seemed they were just giving us false hopes)."

"*Walang personalan, trabaho lang ito* (nothing personal)," Santos clarified.

The GMA Films offer had come over a year ago, long before "Kasal," Lorenzo noted.

According to a Star Cinema insider, "Kasal" earned P212 million. "[Star Cinema] wouldn't confirm that," Juday said. Officially, according to another Star Cinema source, "'Sukob,' starring Claudine, is our biggest earner."

Juday has no time to nitpick, and has only praise for "Kasal," directed by Joey Reyes. "That film is a big blessing. I'm just so happy that viewers liked it," she said. "It was not expensive, either, and it proved that a movie doesn't have to be shot abroad or [be laced with] special effects to become a hit."

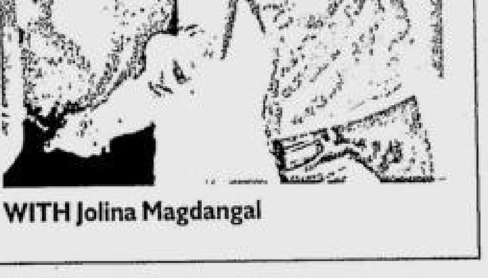
She feels the pressure as the July 25 opening of "Ouija" approaches.

Fortunately, she said, she can share the jitters with co-stars Jolina Magdangal, Iza Calzado and Rhian Ramos.

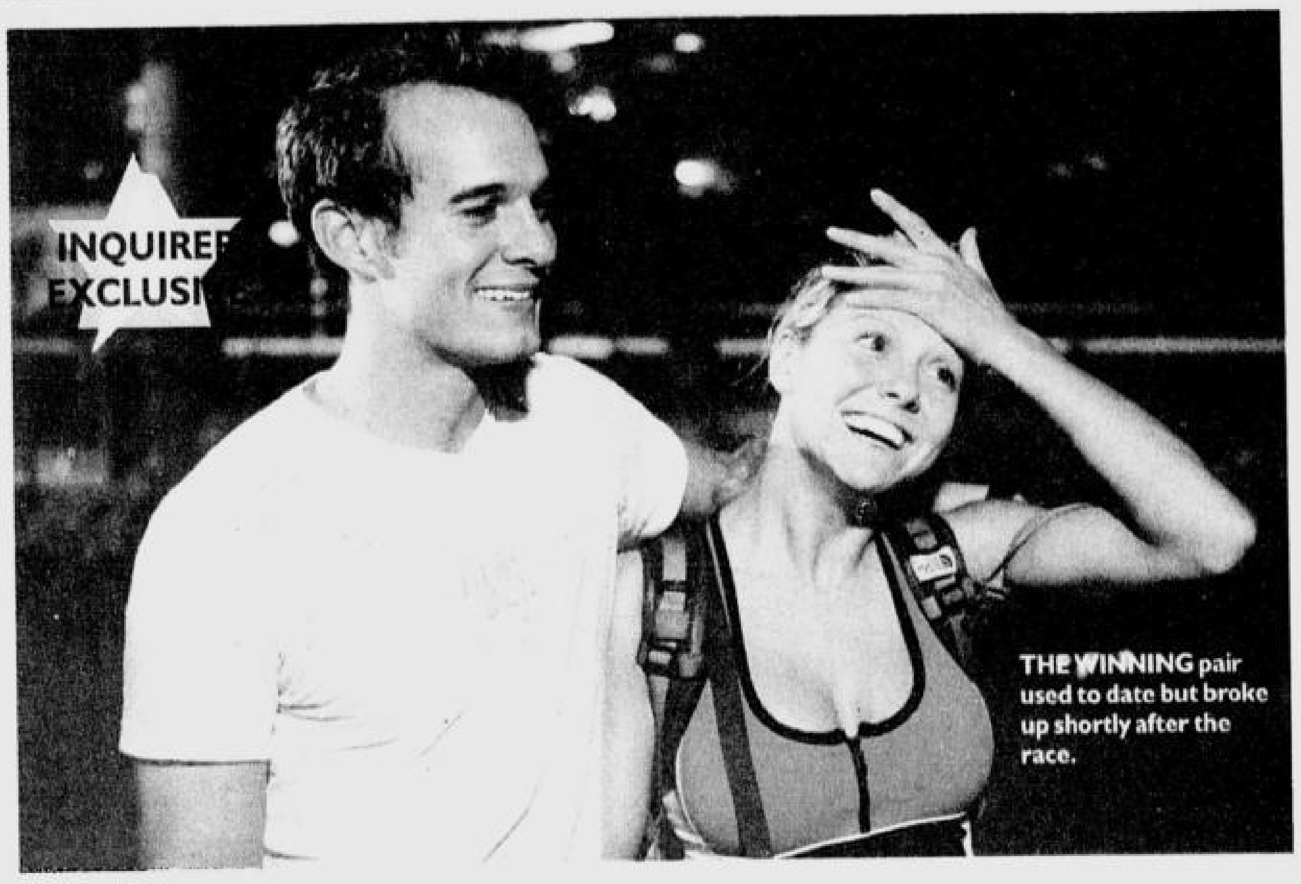
"Ouija," its drumbeaters point out, is the first big-screen team-up of Juday and Jolina, who were perceived as rivals in their younger years. Actually, said Juday, they were buddies. "As teenagers, we wrote letters back and forth."

Both cast members in Kapamilya shows like "G-Mik" and "Esperanza," the two were pitted against each other because of competing recording and soap projects, and when a film version of "Darna" was planned seven years ago.

"But between the two of us, friendship was never questioned. That was how secure we were with each other," Juday recalled. Mostly, it was the fans who quarreled. "We didn't want to join the *gulo* (squabble). I think it's time we were seen together in a movie. We're not getting any younger. Even our fans have matured."



WITH Jolina Magdangal



THE WINNING pair used to date but broke up shortly after the race.

Eric and Danielle rule

By Ruth L. Navarra

ERIC AND DANIELLE FINISHED first in the leg that mattered most—the last.

The previously dating couple are the official winners of "The Amazing Race All-Stars."

They had never finished first in any leg before the finals. They were yielded twice, marked for elimination and removed from a plane once.

The couple came from two different teams in Season 9.

Cousins Charla and Mirna and beauty queens Dustin and Kandice were second and third placers, respectively.

"I'm going to buy a house in Florida. I want to give some to my family and save some for my future," said Eric when asked what he planned to do with his winnings during a conference call.

"I'm not really mean to girls, like you see on TV," he added, laughing. Danielle was not with him at the time of the interview.

Will you give money to Jeremy, your partner in the previous season?

I'm definitely going to help Jeremy a lot. I'll share my house with him and he doesn't have to pay high rent (laughter).

I feel Jeremy deserved to be on this race. Had he been here with me, we would have won the race easier but it was either I went with Danielle or not be in the race at all.

Jeremy's very competitive. Apparently, CBS didn't want an alpha male in "All-Stars."

To be honest, I would have preferred Jeremy, because I think he deserved it more than Danielle did. We placed second in our season; Danielle's was eliminated early.

When did you finish shooting the race?

Exactly September 17, 2006.

When did you break up with Danielle?

Shortly after the race (laughter). We have a lot of respect for each other but we realized that it's just not gonna work out. I'm dating another girl right now. She's 23, not loud and very crazy. She's more subdued and more of the classy type.

Did your new girl know immediately that you had won the race?

No, she didn't. We weren't allowed to tell anybody. My own family didn't know. I think that's part of the fun—that they watch the show and not know what's happening next. In the season where Jeremy and I finished second, they were all crying.

Your team was the only one that finished the final task, which depended on how well one knew the other. Surprising, since you guys were fighting a lot.

I think despite the bickering you saw, Danielle and I had a lot of happy moments together, and conversation. We talked so much. Danielle talks so much. She wouldn't be quiet if I wanted her to be quiet.

It turned out Charla and Mirna, who were very loud, didn't really know each other that much.

Do you think the challenges this season were easier than all the previous seasons?

Challenges *seemed* easier, but what the viewers don't know is that this race is 100 times more stressful. The travel aspect of it, because there are lesser flights, less room for error, everybody knew the same tricks and things.

There are pretty competitive and crazy teams out there. Some deserved to be there, and some didn't like Uchenna and Joyce.

You earlier said they were the team you'd most likely stay in touch with.

Don't get me wrong—they're wonderful people. The reason I didn't want them in the race was because they'd already won.

What's a better rule for a non-elimination leg? Take all your belongings and money or they'll mark you for elimination?

I think the mark for elimination is better because it has more drama. There's the pressure to be in the first place on the next leg, or else they'll give you a 30-min penalty.

I also didn't like to beg for money, because that gives a very wrong impression. You see Americans flying around with a US$1,000 gadget and Nike shoes and then they'll beg for money from a very poor country.

But were you allowed to beg?

We were, but not where begging was illegal.

Why didn't you think Danny and Oswald were trustworthy?

The yield is part of the game, but not one that I would necessarily use. I was not as upset with the blonde girls Dustin and Kandice as I was with Danny and Oswald when we got yielded because we made an agreement with them along with Charla and Mirna. We agreed that we would not yield each other—and it was their idea!

Have you talked to them since the end of the race?

I tried talking to Danny and Oswald but, for some reason, they felt like I was the one who did something wrong. If they don't want to talk about it, I don't want to, either. I was willing to let it go, but they weren't.

Tell us about winning the race.

The best feeling was when I came around the corner of the garden of San Francisco and reaching the mat with no one else there. Just to know that you've won something, even for just the bragging rights ... Don't get me wrong, I'll take the million dollars any time. But being the winner in the "All-stars" is ... amazing.

DANIELLE in a Road Block challenge

'Hoarse voice did me in'

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

BUT "IDOL" castoff LaKisha Jones says, "Look at Chris Daughtry."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

ASKED HOW SHE FELT ABOUT FINISHING fourth on "American Idol" this season, finalist LaKisha Jones replied, "All I can say is, look at Chris Daughtry."

LaKisha is determined to launch her career after an impressive stint on the hugely famous talent search.

During a conference call with the international press, the 27-year-old single mom said she had two immediate plans: To launch a recording career and buy herself and her four-year-old daughter Brionne a new house.

It was Brionne who comforted her the day she got the boot, LaKisha said. "I was crying, she wiped my face and said, 'Mommy, don't cry. I'm not mad.' That was really cute. It's like saying she was proud of me."

For last week's Bee Gees theme, LaKisha picked "Run To Me" and "Staying Alive," choices that got mixed reviews from the judges. She explained during the media call that she was likely done in by a very hoarse voice due to fatigue. She figured that Bee Gees songs weren't exactly the best for her.

LaKisha's departure leaves three contenders—Melinda Doolittle, Blake Lewis and Jordin Sparks.

Is Simon a good kisser?

He is ... I'd do it again. His lips are thin and soft.

Some people have sometimes questioned your song choices, especially when you did Carrie and Fantasia back-to-back. Why songs by two "Idol" winners?

Well ... they were winners. As for "Jesus Take The Wheel," I was going through some things and I was like, "You know what, I can't do this competition by myself so, Lord, you're gonna have to help me through it." I do believe in myself, and I do believe that God has a plan for me, and that I will be successful.

What was your favorite comment from Simon and what got you steamed?

My favorite would have to be, "She's in a league all her own."

Is there one thing you thought he was wrong about?

Yes, when he said, "You're shouting."

What did Simon say to you after you were sent home?

He told me he was proud of me, and that he knows I'm going to have a successful career.

What kind of album would you like to put out?

I'm not sure exactly. I want it to be kind of sassy and soulful with a little inspiration, if that makes sense.

Is the money you've made so far, and what you'll make on the tour, what you expected?

'HOARSE'/ E3

Juday, from Kapamilya to Kapuso: It's just a job

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

JUDY ANN SANTOS

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

SHE KNEW THAT INTRIGUE-MONGERS would feast on her controversial move.

After the success of Star Cinema's Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," Judy Ann Santos opted to do, as follow-up project, the movie "Ouija," produced by her home studio's rival, GMA Films (with Viva Films).

"I have no movie lined up with Star Cinema," Santos explained in an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment.

"But I asked permission from Star. It wasn't easy—there was a lot of discussion," she said.

Yes, she'd heard that Star Cinema people were dismayed.

"If I've stepped on some toes over at ABS-CBN, I'm asking for their patience. I'm just doing my job as an actress. I had to act quickly. I was told [by Star Cinema] that I should hang on, that they had a project for me. But how long should I wait?"

There were also rumors that her ABS-CBN bosses had asked Juday to delay her next film

JUDAY/ E5

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